Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Who do you think will win the U.S. presidential election?

President Barack Obama 167

Mitt Romney 112

Sunday, November 4, 2012

INSIDE

LOCAL

Maria E. Ano is Oleai Elementary School's most outstanding teacher.

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BUSINESS

The United States adds a solid 171,000 jobs in October.

➤ PAGE 18

NATION

The lights are back on in Manhattan, prompting screams of sweet relief.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial waves to passing motorists at the final campaign rally of the Republican Party by the Garapan Fishing Base on Saturday, while other photo shows supporters of Independents, Independent Republicans, and the Covenant Party banding together for their rally near the Microl intersection in San Jose yesterday afternoon.

FITIAL, BENAVENTE, OTHERS:

'VOTE IF YOU WANT CHANGE'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hundreds turned out for the final campaign rallies of the Republican Party on Saturday and the coalition of the Covenant Party, Independent Republicans, and Independents on Sunday. Key leaders in opposing camps that included Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente shared a common message for voters: Get out and vote on Nov. 6 if you want change.

"Change," however, depends on which campaign one talks to.

Fitial said voters should vote for candidates who are willing to work with him to "move the Commonwealth forward," while Benavente said voters should choose those who do not support corruption in government.

The governor said tomorrow's midterm election is not about him but the candidates of the Republican Party.

This year's campaigns season was overshadowed by a defeated resolution to impeach the governor for 16 allegations of felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

"My message, first I want to tell them I have not done anything wrong, because if I did, then I should be in jail, but I did not do anything wrong. It's just that this is election year and the other group wanted to smear my name hoping that the public would be discouraged and not support the Republican Party candidates," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the

See CHANGE on Page 4

Benavente: Smear campaign vs Kilili an act of desperation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Days after Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) launched a public petition urging U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to investigate corruption in the CNMI, the Republican Party's Juan I. Tenorio also led over the weekend a petition asking U.S. Attorney for Guam and

See SMEAR on Page 4

Sablan

Faster counting time this year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero disclosed Saturday that a bigger, faster machine will be used for this year's midterm polls. He expects this to speed up the tabulation of ballots and produce earlier announcement of results compared to previous polls.

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DOI: 25 pct. spending cut may be required

» Interior report tracks historical data of CNMI's general fund deficit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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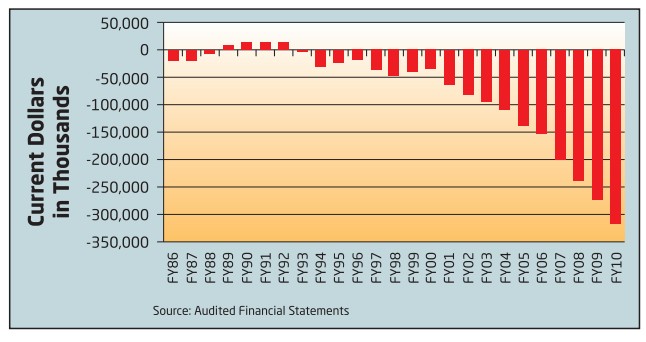
REPORTER

The CNMI government's spending has been exceeding its revenues, resulting in over $316 million general fund deficit by the end of fiscal year 2010, mostly on liability for unfunded retirement benefits, according to a just released U.S. Department of the Interior report that also says cuts in spending by as much as 25 percent "might be required" given the problem's scale.

The Interior report shows the historical

See SPENDING on Page 4

Cumulative General Fund Deficit FY 1986 to FY 2010



Source: Audited Financial Statements

Man allegedly sexually abused girl since she was 6. PAGE 2
Two receive 'Ruth Tighe Good Citizen' Award. PAGE 15

Local

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated left, along with CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office director Ben Camacho, seated right, and other veterans pose for a group photo during Friday morning's signing of a proclamation declaring Nov. 5 to 11 Veterans Awareness Week.

CNMI pays tribute to veterans

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed Friday morning a proclamation declaring Nov. 5 to 11 Veterans Awareness Week to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of men and women of the U.S. armed forces. This year's celebration, which begins today, will see some hotels and restaurants giving 10- to 25-percent discounts to veterans and active duty personnel, said CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office director Ben Camacho.

"We salute their services, honor their sacrifices, and honor them for supporting this nation every hour of need. …It is our duty to remember what our veterans have done and to uphold our commitments to them and their families," Inos said in his proclamation.

Participating businesses that will offer discounts to veterans and active duty personnel during Veterans Week are Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club, World Resort Saipan, KFC, Taco Bell, and McDonald's.

"The Army Reserve is also going to have a sale. They call it a coupon sale. And traditionally, the troop store is not open on Veterans Day. But I've asked them if they would open that day. They agreed," Camacho told the crowd during the proclamation signing, witnessed by veterans including Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Mariano Fajardo, and Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Camacho urges veterans to first drop by the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office on Capital Hill to get a so-called proof of identity that they would show to the participating businesses to avail of the discounts.

He said this will also be a way for the office to register veterans, which in his estimate is at 1,200 to 1,300. Camacho and Deleon Guerrero cited benefits of being registered veterans, including compensation, healthcare benefits and burial at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery when they pass away, among other things.

Veterans Awareness Week will be capped by a Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11, Sunday, at 11am at American Memorial Park in Garapan.

The CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office is also hosting an essay-writing contest for students at the American Memorial Park Theater on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012, at 6pm. The overall winner will be the guest speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony.

Man, 20, allegedly sexually abused girl since she was 6

Police arrested last week a 20-year-old man who allegedly sexually abused a 13-year-old girl since she was just 6 on Tinian.

Anthony H. Borja was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, indecent exposure in the second degree, assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $50,000 cash.

Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg represented Borja at the bail hearing Friday. Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal represented the government.

Police detective Barbara Arend stated in her report that a police officer responded on Oct. 3 to a residence where a 12-year-old girl was allegedly sexually abused.

In an interview with police officers, the victim allegedly confessed that Borja began touching her when she was 6 years old and that Borja had sex with her monthly since she was 10.

A staff at Tinian Health Center stated that physical examination showed evidence of vaginal penetration. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Ano is Oleai Elementary's most outstanding educator

MARIA E. ANO
Teacher of the Year

VERONICA KING
Teacher Aide of the Year

CHRISTINE ALDAN
Counselor of the Year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's Note: This story is part of a series of articles that Saipan Tribune *is publishing in support of the celebration of Education Month by the Public School System.*

A 28-year-old mother of three, Maria E. Ano, was adjudged this year as the most outstanding educator of Oleai Elementary School, enabling her to represent her colleagues in the Public School System's search for CNMI Teacher of the Year for 2012. The winner will get the chance to compete at the national level and meet the U.S. President.

A graduate of Northern Marianas College in 2007, Ano joined the school system a year later and taught the third grade at Oleai Elementary. This is her second time to be nominated for the award.

"It's overwhelming! I was overjoyed to know that everyone I work with believes and trusts my abilities. I want to share this honor with my fellow teachers who also deserve to be recognized for their sacrifices and hard work," Ano told *Saipan Tribune* Friday.

The Oleai teacher admits that, as a child, it didn't really occur to her that she will become a teacher someday. It was only in her college years that she realized she wanted to pursue the profession.

"When I started college and took my practicum class, I saw the impact teachers had on students. It was a lasting impact. Right then, I realized it is where I want to be—a teacher," she said.

Compared to other careers out there, teaching is the only profession where every school year one can start anew, Ano said.

"You can experience, you can be innovative, be creative every school year. If one strategy does not work, you can always bring in a new strategy. In this profession, you can't go wrong because you're looking at a child as your 'product,'" she said.

Other awardees

Oleai conferred its Support Staff of the Year/Counselor of the Year award on Christine Aldan, who has been with the school for three years. As one of the school's counselors, Aldan deals with nearly 300 upper grade students everyday. A first-time awardee, Aldan admits that the recognition is unexpected, considering the short period she's been with the school. Aldan graduated from San Diego State University in 2010 and joined PSS that year.

This year's Teacher Aide of the Year is Veronica King, a teacher aide for the school's Chamorro/Carolinian Language Heritage Studies program. Also a first-time awardee, King first joined PSS in 2004 as a Koblerville Elementary School's teacher aide for the special education program. She later transferred to San Antonio Elementary School where she served the CCLHS program. She also worked for the PSS bilingual program at the central office until 2007, when she formally joined the Oleai school.

Wiseman optimistic of getting 3rd term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, the first non-indigenous judge to capture a retention election, is optimistic that voters will give him a third term on the bench during the Nov. 6 election.

"I'm looking forward to be retained. I'm optimistic about it," Wiseman told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

In deciding to seek a third term as an associate judge, Wiseman told Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero that he is motivated by his desire to continue to meet the "very unique and ongoing challenges" of being a judge.

Wiseman is currently the longest serving judge in the Superior Court. He will be 12 years on the bench in March 2013, the expiration of his second term.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has appointed Wiseman for 10 consecutive years as a designated judge for the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Wiseman's first six-year term as a judge expired in March 2007. In November 2005, voters retained him to serve as a judge until March 2013.

Also up for this year's retention election is Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos.

"I'm fair and honest," Inos earlier told *Saipan Tribune* as to the question why people should vote for his retention. "I want to maintain the integrity of the court."

Inos' first six-year term as a judge will expire in September 2014. He began serving on the bench on Sept. 22, 2008.

Alexandro C. Castro is supposed to be on the retention ballot, but Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated him as chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court. The Senate immediately confirmed Castro's nomination.

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Dear Voters of Precinct 2 (Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, Finasisu, As Lito and As Perdido):

For more than 9 months, my wife Joann and I have been going out visiting you during our house visits. You all recognize and acknowledge that our precinct is broken and nothing has changed in the past 14 years since the party politicians dominated our community.

They promised your children to fix the basketball courts but they are still broken. They promised you afterschool activities for your children but there are none. They promised "Better Times" and asked you to "Let It BE" but many of you are unemployed and living without any power or water.

The CUC, Retirement Fund, CHC, Medicaid our economy and the high crime rate are also examples of the many things that are all broken. If the same party politicians ignored your concerns and couldn't fix anything in 14 years, why would you want to give them another 2 more years? IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE!

There are six candidates running for House of Representatives for Precinct 2 but I am the only candidate who graduated with a 4-year college degree in Business Management. I achieved the rank of captain in the Army and graduated from the United States Army Engineering School in Fort Leonard Wood Missouri.

I possess the business, educational experience, military leadership and discipline to move our community in the right direction. In addition, I pledge honesty, transparency, hard work and zero tolerance for corruption.

I am respectfully asking for your vote and your commitment so that we can work together in rebuilding our community and our island. I will work hard at finding solutions to the economic problems as well as the other pressing issues affecting us, and my door will always be open to you, because at the end of the day, I work for you.

Please let us stand together **"United for Change"** by voting for the candidate who will best represent your families but most especially your children's interest. On November 6, 2012, I am humbly asking you to please vote for me, # 4. Daniel Iwashita Aquino.

Thank You,

Daniel I. Aquino Jr.
Susupe

PLEASE VOTE FOR CHANGE
PRECINCT 2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
4 AQUINO, Daniel Jr. Iwashita (Independent)

New ASNMC president vows effective representation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Alex Shen, the newly elected president of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, vows to effectively represent students in the Board of Regents where he will sit as an honorary member.

"My immediate goal is to build a bridge of communication between the school and the students. We, the ASNMC, see the need for establishing such communication to improve understanding and cooperation. We also see the need for effective representation," he said.

Shen succeeded former student council president Lawrence Camacho, who also sought re-election this year but lost. The new ASNMC leadership promised a different approach in dealing with student issues and concerns.

"I don't see a lot of difference between me and past presidents of ASNMC but if I were to pinpoint one difference, then I would say it's probably in the method of approach to different issues and concerns of students. My method of approaching issues will be more neutral, diplomatic, and passive, by assessing both the viewpoint of the students and the school to search and find a solution that will benefit both the school and our student body," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that as president, he wants to support students' claims and concerns with data, statistics, and feedback. After all, he said, NMC is a data-driven institution.

When asked about student concerns that his leadership would like to prioritize, Shen said the lack of student activities and financial aid have been of utmost concern for many students. This, he said, is based on a recent survey.

"I've reviewed a survey from spring 2012, and from this survey I've learned that the most concerning issues of our students is not tuition or security. Rather, it involved lack of student activities and financial aid. What's more surprising is the concern for financial aid when there are multiple scholarships available. From this, I speculate that most of whom who see a need for financial aid may be those non-U.S. citizens," he said, adding that due to these findings, ASNMC is working on a project that can provide at least some sort of scholarship or financial aid for both international and resident students.

Shen also vows to address students' issues first at committee level before it is offered to the regents' table for discussion and action.

"I will bring the agenda to the Board of Regents if necessary, but as of now there are no concerns or issues that should be brought up to board. I believe most of the concerns and issues can be resolved before reaching the board level through different committees that our ASNMC officers and senators serve on," he added.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy "beerday" to my honey and Dad, Ben "Aguas" Sablan Ada! Words cannot describe how amazing you are to us. Thanks to God, we are truly grateful and blessed to be sharing life with you. We love you, honey and dad. Greetings come from your wife, Lynn, and kids Linko, Benn, Tilly, Beng, Hulk, Tyler, and the rest of the Aguuas and Chaketa families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SPENDING

From Page 1

increase in the CNMI's general fund deficit starting from fiscal year 1986. It noted finances in the black from 1989 to 1993 until starting its downward spiral in 1994. Since then, the CNMI has posted an annual deficit.

From only some $50 million in 1998, the deficit grew to over $100 million in 2004 to over $200 million in 2007 and then to over $300 million in fiscal year 2010.

It also says a significant portion of revenues are contingent on policies and procedures outside of local control, for example federal grants and other contributions.

"Although these awards have the advantage of bringing outside dollars into the CNMI, they increase the oversight responsibility of those funds," states the report, which Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta shared with local stakeholders in the last few days.

The report says prospects for increasing revenues are complicated by the interactions between tax policy and economic growth and, therefore, may have to be a minor element of the solution.

The Fitial administration and the House leadership have been pushing for the legalization of casino gaming on Saipan, a proposal that Saipan voters and the Senate has rejected for years.

Reducing expenditures is also a complicated undertaking since the services they underwrite are important to residents and they may contribute to public well-being.

"But the scale of the problem is large and we estimate that a reduction of overall current spending by as much as 25 percent might be required. In the long run, the plan has to eliminate the accumulated deficit that currently resides on the CNMI's financial statements," the Interior report says.

This might involve adding a specific deficit reduction line item in the annual budget; an earmarked incremental tax; a redefinition of retirement benefits; or some combination of strategies, the Interior report says.

The report also points to the CNMI's practice of omitting known, unavoidable costs from the expenditure budget including utilities, medical referral services, and retirement fund contributions, a factor leading to overspending.

Since fiscal year 2008, some 40 to 50 programs have exceeded their budgets each year, the report says. Unfavorable variances from the budget averages $14 million a year during the period under review.

The Fitial administration says it is still reviewing the Interior report and its recommendation.

The Interior recommended to the CNMI to: Close the gap between current revenues and current expenses; fund a deficit reduction schedule; and observe strict financial controls.

The report, prepared for the CNMI government by Deborah Milks and Roger Black under contract to the Graduate School USA, presents factual information that point out potentially profitable avenues for further policy development.

SMEAR

From Page 1

NMI Alicia Limtiaco to have Sablan probed for alleged drug-related matters that former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente described yesterday as "a smear campaign" and "an act of desperation."

Sablan has never been arrested or charged in connection with illegal drugs.

Benavente, during a road-waving yesterday afternoon in support of Independent Republicans, Independents and Covenant Party members, said the Republican Party's "personal attack" on Sablan just days before the Nov. 6 election will not resonate among voters who "know better."

He said Sablan's call for an investigation into corruption in government is shared by many in the community. Benavente was referring to most of the 16 articles of impeachment against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

These include an escape of a federal inmate to give the governor a massage, sole-source ARRA management contract, a no-bid $190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement for a 25-year period, and allowing a former attorney general to violate the Hatch Act and other laws and allegedly shielding him from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal cases.

"The action taken by Kilili and many others are called for. This petition against Kilili is nothing more than a personal attack, desperation. They want to try to beat Kilili, and that's just not going to happen, people know better. I'd never heard of Kilili being arrested or convicted of any drug charges so for them to circulate this, only for the purpose of it getting to the media is another one of the many dirty political tactics this Republican group is pursuing. And they've been really dirty," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune.*

Tenorio's petition asks Limtiaco to "immediately launch a criminal investigation on the alleged past unlawful and illegal activities of the CNMI's Delegate to the U.S. Congress, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, for his direct participation and involvement in the trafficking of illegal drugs in the CNMI as a user, pusher, dealer, and/or agent."

Tenorio's online petition got 17 signatures—all from outside the CNMI as of 8:30pm last night.

Tenorio was not returning calls yesterday, although as early as Friday, members of the Republican Party were already talking about the petition.

Another GOP source said yesterday there were over 300 signatures to have Sablan investigated and these signatures were gathered during Saturday's GOP rally, but this could not be independently verified as of last night.

Sablan's online petition addressed to Holder, meanwhile, has so far gathered over 600 signatures as of 8pm last night, mostly from CNMI residents.

Sablan's campaign said yesterday that the public has every right to ask these questions of their elected officials.

"I did struggle with alcohol early in my life, but gave up drinking entirely on my 19th birthday, Jan. 19, 1974. Twenty years later, I also had a problem with drug use. That ended on Jan. 19, 1995. Because of these experiences, my heart goes out to all those in our community, who are caught up in substance abuse. I encourage everyone who faces this problem to reach out for help, as I was able to do, and to find strength in the love and support of family and friends and in God's forgiveness," his campaign said.

FASTER

From Page 1

The machine, along with technical support personnel, was shipped from Alabama middle of last month in time for the Nov. 6 elections.

The commission is leasing the machine for some $6,000. The vendor for the machine also printed the 18,000 ballots.

As soon as polling places close at 7pm Tuesday, the election board plans to immediately start the tabulation to meet its goal of completing the whole process by midnight. The commission currently has two small machines. With the addition of the bigger machine, one of the two old machines will be used as backup.

In past years, it took the commission eight to nine hours, usually starting from 8pm through 4am, to complete the tabulation. Guerrero targets to finish the counting within four to five hours this year.

"The voting population deserves a quicker result and we're going to make it happen this year," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

As of Oct. 25, the commission has a total of 16,771 registered voters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Absentee voters are at 1,840 as of Oct. 29.

Four commission personnel were sent to the Northern Islands last Saturday, Nov. 3, to conduct early voting. They are expected to be back as soon as they gather all early voters. If not, the team will stay until Election Day on Tuesday. The commission chartered a ship to the Northern Islands for about $7,000.

Guerrero said the commission also conducted training and certification of election workers last weekend in preparation for Tuesday's election. He said that all political parties—Republican, Covenant, and Democratic parties—will be represented at every polling station. Representatives of both the Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General will do their regular rounds in polling places on three islands.

The CNMI mid-term elections is on Nov. 6 with the following positions up for grabs: 20 seats in the House of Representatives; three seats in the Senate; three seats in the Board of Education; all positions at the municipal councils; retention of judges, and one position for U.S. delegate to Congress.

There are also three legislative initiatives for the voters to ratify. These are House Legislative Initiative 17-2, which will make the attorney general an elected position; Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12, which seeks to allow the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents to revise NMC's mission statement; and House Legislative Initiative 17-5, which will allow the government to float a bond.

CHANGE

From Page 1

Saturday GOP rally. Fitial is president of the Republican Party.

The governor said his Republican candidates helped him restore 80 work hours this fiscal year.

"I'm not running, so people should know that. This is not about me…so the people have to understand, should they elect people that will fight the governor or people that would help work together with the governor?" he said.

Benavente, in an interview at yesterday's rally of the other parties and independents, said voters should choose candidates that do not support the current administration's allegedly corrupt ways.

He called on voters, especially those that are frustrated, to "get out and vote."

Benavente, a former speaker, said that voter turnout is usually much lower in mid-term elections than during general or gubernatorial elections.

"We have a group that opposes corruption in government, we have many parties and candidates running but more so, running against this current administration's slate of candidates and I say to those who are frustrated, don't be frustrated that you don't want to vote. Be frustrated enough that you want to vote and make a difference," he said.

"We all know that those who are supporting this administration would come out because they have something to protect, they want to protect their jobs, they want to protect their contract, they want to protect their families, and so we need to overcome that by bringing out what I feel the majority of the people here to come out and vote against what's happening right now," he added.

When polls open tomorrow, voters will not only choose among over 80 candidates but also vote on three legislative initiatives on an elected attorney general, pension obligation bond, and a change in Northern Marianas College's mission statement.

On Saturday morning to afternoon, the governor led hundreds of Republican Party members—most in red shirts—at a grand rally that included a motorcade and road waving by the Garapan Fishing Base.

On Sunday afternoon, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) led over 100 at a road-waving participated in by the Covenant Party, Independent Republicans and Independents near Microl intersection in San Jose.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Republican Party's grand rally is the culmination of all the efforts done to promote the party's candidates and platform, as well as "unity that is needed to unite this community [that] has been divided by so many different kinds of movements."

"But we believe with today's turnout that unity is on our side and we're overwhelmingly appreciative of the support of the people," he said, adding, however, that the Republican Party does not want to be "too confident" but is hopeful that most if not all of its candidates will win the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

When asked whether he thinks tomorrow's election is a race between good and evil, Demapan believes that is not the right way to term it.

"I think it's an election between different beliefs. But you know in the end in unity there is strength and we believe unity is right here in the Republican Party," he said.

Tan Holdings completes tree planting for 40th anniversary celebration

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings executives led by president Jerry Tan planted 150 flame tree saplings in Suicide Cliff last Oct. 31, culminating the company's tree planting initiative that marked its 40th anniversary of doing business in Micronesia this year.

Tan, in his Going Green company shirt and recyclable gloves, got down on his knees on a sweltering Halloween morning to plant the ceremonial 400th sapling of his favorite tree, which he said sets the islands apart from neighboring destinations in the Pacific.

About 50 managers, directors, and business unit heads followed suit and were joined by representatives of government agencies and non-profit groups.

Among Wednesday's guests were Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance acting board chair Frankie Eliptico, executive director Sam Sablan, and Division of Environmental Quality staff.

"Protecting our environment is something very important," said Tan, who also acknowledged the company's environmental champion, Lina Dimaano, for initiating one of their most important projects in partnership with MINA.

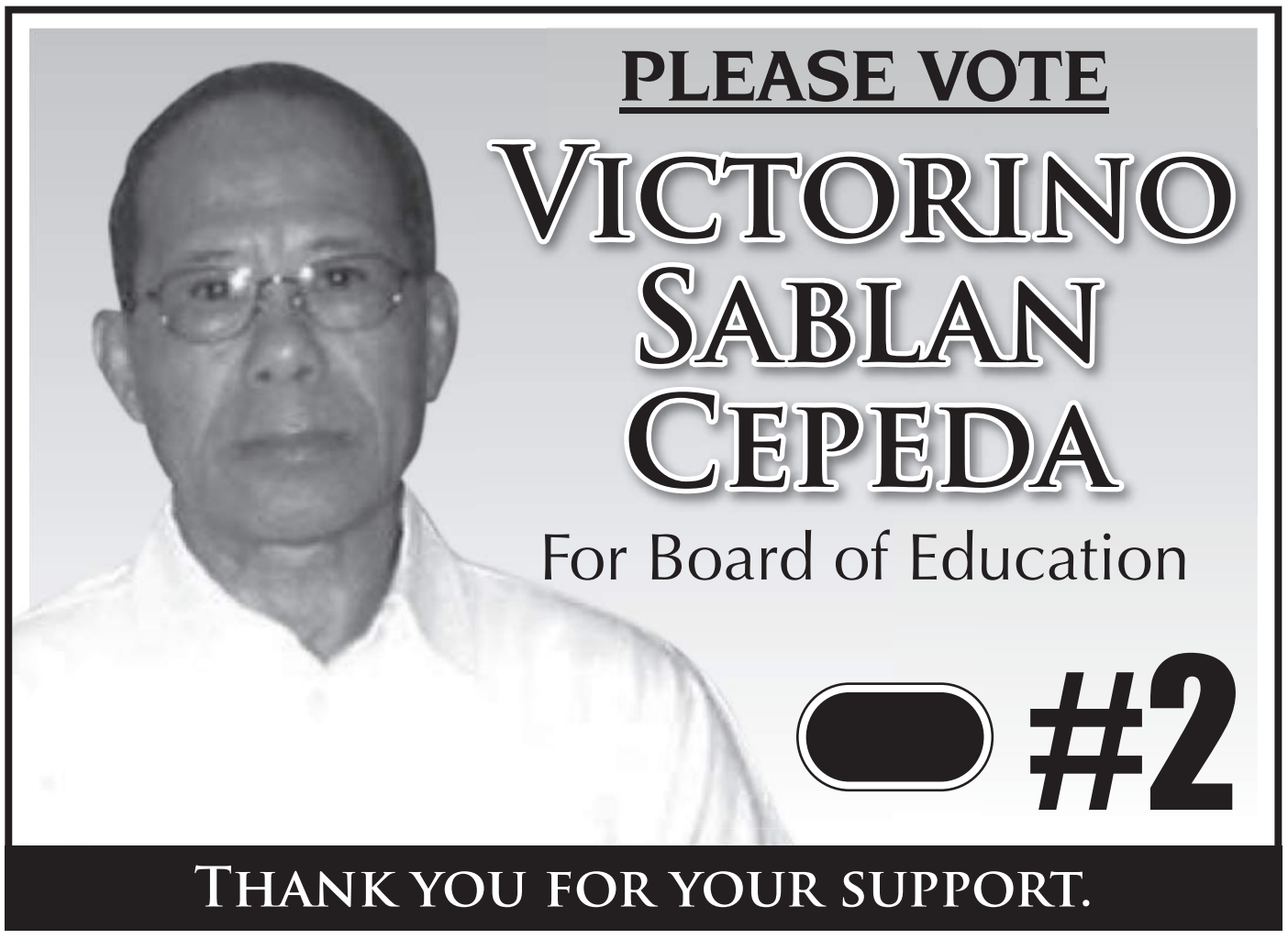
Dimaano, who is also Tan Holdings' vice president for finance, said all four tree planting events held in celebration of Tan Holding's anniversary are a milestone for a company that has placed environmental stewardship at the forefront.

"This is not the end. This is just the beginning," she assured.

MINA's Eliptico touts Tan Holdings as a "trailblazer" in corporate responsibility, saying that caring for the environment is ingrained in its corporate culture as shown by its tree planting initiative and other environment-friendly endeavors such as beach cleanups.

Eliptico, who accepted a check donation from Tan during the event, also thanked Tan Holdings and its charitable arm, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, for their continued support for programs that protect and conserve the Commonwealth's natural resources.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan plants the ceremonial 400th flame tree sapling to culminate the company's tree planting initiative that marked its 40th anniversary of doing business in Micronesia this year.
CLARISSA V. DAVID



VOTE
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES
Thank You for Your Support!
BOTA
ROMAN C. BENEVENTE
#3
JOSEPH P. DL. GUERRERO
#5
ANTONIO P. SABLAN
#1
MARIANO TAITANO
#7
JANET U. MARATITA
#12
RAY N. YUMUL
#2
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PRECINCT 1
SENATE
Please vote for us and all Independent Republican Candidates in Precinct 3 and 5.
We also ask for your support in re-electing Incumbent U.S. Congressional Candidate Gregorio Camacho (Kilili) Sablan
and all Covenant Candidates for the House of Representative in Precinct 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Sixth edition of Trunk or Treat an unqualified success again

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 2,500 Halloween revelers put on colorful and elaborate costumes Wednesday night last week for the Annual Trunk or Treat tradition at the American Memorial Park.

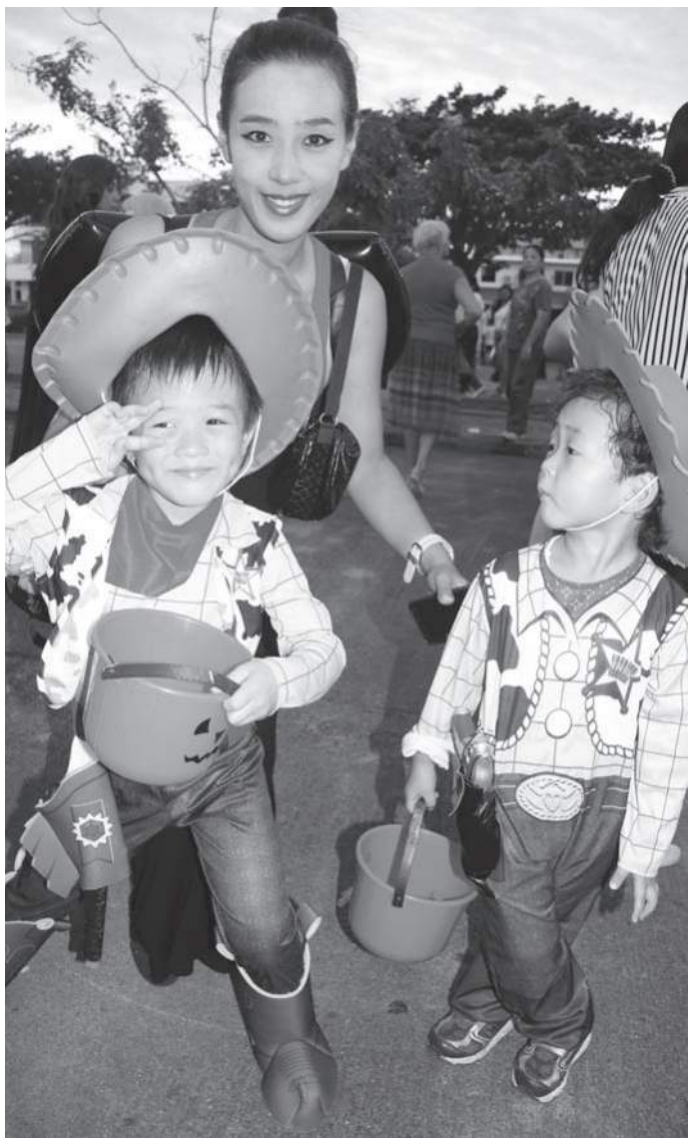
Costumed characters visited all the Halloween-decorated trunks, majority of which gave away candies, while others handed out fruits and school stuff.

This is the sixth year that organizers hosted the free trick or treating event, which was also a contest for who had the best decorated trunk based on AMP's Recyghoul theme.

Park Ranger Susan Fishman-Tudor said the trunk competitors were evaluated by three "impartial" judges based on criteria such as most eco-friendly and Halloween-spirited.

The Division of Environmental Quality took home a dinner gift certificate for four after winning the Best Decorated Trunk award for a giant black spider sitting atop the trunk that was filled with cobwebs and candy decorations. The creature's body was created out of old trash bags stuffed with used newspapers while the legs were made of rolled up old posters.

Watershed coordinator Kaitlin Mattos said the eight-legged beast was the original idea of staffer Juliana Mendoza, with employees from the Non-Point Source and Marine Monitoring branches helping put together a week's worth of hard work.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Two cowboys take on the sights at the Trunk or Treat event of the American Memorial Park on Wednesday last week.

Mattos said the Coral Resource Management Office was their closest contender, but DEQ's "scary edge" made the agency stand out. The DEQ trunk gave away lollipops and other hard candies to children.

"It wasn't too scary for the little kids but it was a lot of fun for the older kids that came out here in their costumes and really like to be scared a little bit on Halloween," she added.

Youngsters and grown-ups alike roamed the AMP parking lot from 4pm to 7pm for the biggest Halloween trick-or-treating event on island, wearing costumes from princesses and cartoon characters to little ghouls and monsters.

At least three concert bands, including Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band, performed while clad in their Halloween costumes. Several of the trick-or-treaters, meanwhile, watched family-friendly movies or indulged their artistic talents with the arts and crafts activities inside the Visitors Center.

The spooky celebration was also graced by about 60 to 80 flash mob dancers composed of DEQ and CRM teams, Hopwood Jr. High School students, and the "Trash Bin Monster" to boost efforts for the Our Laolao Campaign, which seeks to protect Laolao Bay and keep it litter-free.

DEQ's Mattos said that even during Halloween, they want to encourage the public to pick up after themselves and take care of the environment while enjoying their treats or wearing their costumes.

While the bulk of Wednesday's trick-or-treaters were old-timers at the annual event, Trunk or Treat was particularly exciting for first-timers like Elizabeth Cruz, who brought her son Tristan Sablan in a Captain America outfit, nephew Eric Cruz as a white ninja, and 11-year-old brother JBoy Cruz as a Corrections prisoner.

"We wanted to experience this event for the first time and we're having fun. It's a great event to have a good Halloween and spend some family time," said the Dandan resident.

Fifteen cadets of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion and Department of Public Safety staff helped facilitate traffic flow.

Besides DEQ and CRM, other groups that hosted trunks at the event were the Rotary Club of Saipan, Girl Scouts of the NMI, Public School System Headstart Program, 302nd QM Det. 1 and 442nd 100 BN Family Readiness Groups, Transpacific Group, Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration-CNMI, Marriage Encounter, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, Compsron Three U.S. Navy, and three residents.

Park Ranger Fishman-Tudor said they are pleased that the annual event had another fantastic turnout and that everything worked out well once again. "We hope to see them all again next year," she added.

VOTE BOTA

NEVER STOPPED WORKING FOR PRECINCT 2

#2

ATALIG, ERIC BENAVENTE

Also please vote for HOFSCHNEIDER, LIANA SABLAN #3 on the ballot

REPUBLICAN PARTY NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

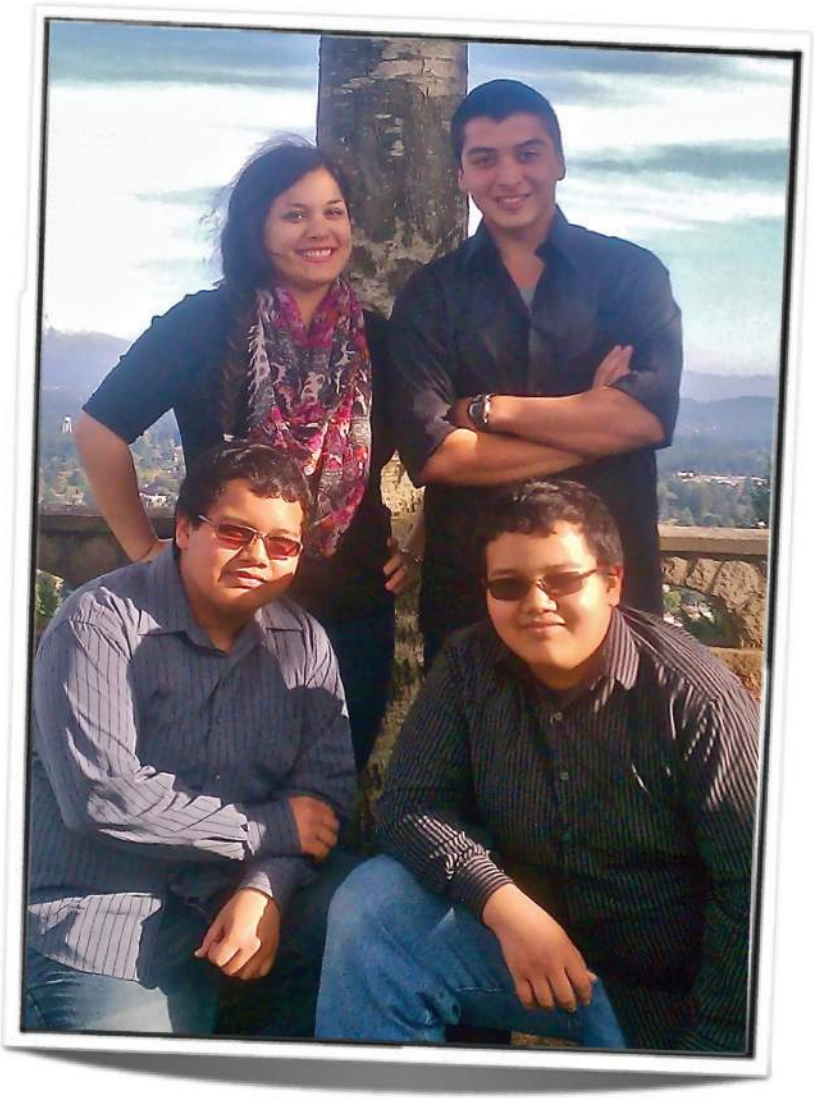
PLEASE VOTE REPUBLICAN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Paid by Committee-to Elect Eric Benavente Atalig

Dear People of the Commonwealth,

I have been honored by the extraordinary privilege
you have given me to represent you in Congress,
and I have been humbled
by the outpouring of your support.



Please know that I, together with Andrea,
our children and family,
and the Kilili for Congress committee,
am very grateful for your support.

Please accept our sincerest gratitude
and you have my assurance
that I shall continue to work hard
for all our people and islands.

With gratitude and warm personal regards,
I remain,

Kilili

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Paid for by Kilili for Congress

Public hearings set on rate review process

The Department of Commerce's Rate Review Office will be hosting a series of public hearings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to discuss the development of a rate review process to ensure the CNMI's compliance with the Affordable Care Act. Interested parties are invited to provide testimony and written comments.

The Rate Review Office will be presenting the proposed CNMI Health Insurance Rate Review process. This process is used to maintain regulatory controls over excessive and unjustified increases in healthcare premiums in the CNMI. As the CNMI did not previously have an established Rate Review process, Commerce is seeking comments from stakeholders and the public as to the proposed process.

The public hearings will be conducted on the island of Saipan, while being simulcast to the islands of Rota and Tinian via video teleconference.

On Saipan, the hearing will be at the Northern Marianas College campus, Room N-5, on Nov. 9 and Nov. 19, 2012, both from 5pm 7pm.

On Rota and Tinian, the hearing will be broadcast to the NMC Rota campus VTC room and NMC Tinian campus VTC room, also on Nov. 9 and 19, 2012, also from 5pm to 7pm.

Commerce encourages the public to participate in these public hearings. Any and all interested members of the CNMI community are invited to submit testimony or attend the hearings. These hearings are open to the public and are free to attend. Testimonies can be submitted in advance electronically at public-comments@commerce.gov.mp. For information on the public hearings call 234-7427. *(Office of the Governor)*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced first birthday to our Lil' Magas, Joseph "Jojo" Tenorio Santos II. It's been a year filled with happiness, joy, and headaches and we wouldn't trade it for anything. We love you, son!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our baby girl and mom, Solvinialynn Joreen "Linko" B. Ada! Your kind, loving, caring talkative heart always brings smiles to everyone around you and close to you. You're the beat that pumps the heart of everybody in the room. We love you baby girl and Mom! From Tyler Jonathan and the rest of the Aguas and Chaketa families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Lolo Danny Chan, who celebrated his special day yesterday, Nov. 4, 2012. We wish you Lolo to have many more birthdays to come and we wish you to be more healthy each and everyday. God bless! From your Loving apos Queen Anne, Daphne, Keeno, and Louis!

IMPOTTÅNTE
na ta tungo' i
MINAGÅHET.
Kuåtro ånos gi kungresu. Tåya' ha cho'gue.
Ti efektibu si Kilili
na kongresu.
Esti ha' bidå-ña si Kilili gi hålom kuåtro åños:
Benti Sieti ha' na åktu ha introdusi
Tåya' ma apreba
Kume ke ilek-ña esti na ti machochochu' si Kilili!
Ta nisisita mås ayudu ki tåya'.
Ta nisisita delegådu ni siña machocho' yan i
pumalu na kongresu para benefisiun i CNMI.
Gi Nobiembre dia sais, maila' ya ta na guåha adelåntu ya ta bota si
DR. IGNACIA TUDELA DEMAPAN PARA U.S. CONGRESS
Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 5, 2001

Fund, Torres disagree on calculations

The proposed settlement agreement between the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund and former administrator Juan S. Torres has hit a minor snag over annuity calculations and the issue of whether or not Torres is entitled to the 30-percent early retirement bonus. Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker said that when the Fund's Board of Trustees agreed to grant Torres the two-year work credit that would make it appear that he served his term until the end of his contract, it was on the assumption that his annuity calculation would be based on the salary he was receiving during his termination and not on the salary he would have received if he finished his contract.

Hyatt closes restaurant

Hard economic times forced Hyatt Regency-Saipan to close the Chinese Restaurant beginning yesterday, November 4, according to Food and Beverage Director Malcolm Omond. "Although we are very proud of our Chinese Restaurant Team and the product that we serve here, the hard reality is that business levels have been seriously reduced in the last 2 months," said Omond. He added that the outlook going into 2002 is uncertain and that, at this time, "the best course is to close the restaurant."

Nov. 5, 2002

Rota needs $30M for utility services

Rota needs some $30 million funding to be able to provide adequate utility services on the island, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corporation deputy executive director Charles A. Manglona. "We need $20-30 million for utility services. It's for the infrastructure-installation of power distribution systems, water connection and the sewer lines," Manglona said in a recent interview. He said several capital improvement projects remain pending. Most of these are power distribution and water system projects. Power distribution projects include Chenchon/As-Niebes; Ginalangan/Palii, Teneto/Ponia, and Teneto/Ka'an; and 10-MVA stations, the bidding of which is pending a legal opinion in connection with the CUC's easement rights.

Deal to reduce shipment backlogs

The Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday disclosed that the temporary agreement reached between West Coast workers and shipping companies also tentatively relieved other countries and territories, such as the CNMI, of further delay in the arrival of shipments from the mainland U.S. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said that, with the tentative resolution reached Friday, shipments that were put on hold at West Coast ports will be slowly back on track. "Backlogs will now be taken cared of. Cargo-wise, inbound shipment would be arriving from time to time," said Salas in an interview. He added that agricultural produce will be slowly shipped in to the Northern Marianas, erasing fears raised by hotel and restaurant operators of a possible shortage in farm products and livestock.

Nov, 5 2004

CNMI receives $560K coral reef grant

The Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have approved the CNMI's $560,000 grant application for coral reef protection in the CNMI. DOI Office of Insular Affairs director Nikola I. Pula, in a recent letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, said the funds will be used to carry out the projects identified by the local Coral Reef Advisory Group as high priority. These include funding for a coral reef coordinator, an assistant attorney general dedicated to coral reef protection, marine enforcement operations, surveys of the Saipan lagoon, and an economic reef evaluation.

MVA still waiting for the rest of its 2004 budget

The Department of Finance is still behind by $1.7 million in its budget allotment for the Marianas Visitors Authority for fiscal year 2004, putting on the balance MVA's upcoming payments to its overseas marketing offices. MVA chair David Sablan said the entire amount is all committed for and includes funds that the tourism agency needs to pay Ruder Finn Asia, which is the marketing firm selected to represent MVA in China. MVA has entered into a two-year contract with Ruder Finn Asia at a cost of $490,000 per year. Sablan said that, while MVA is currently up-to-date in its payments to vendors, it is imperative for the agency to receive the budget balance by next month.

ESGR accepting nominations for Employer Support Award

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, a Department of Defense agency, is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the department's highest award presented to civilian employers for support of their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

Nominations may be submitted by Guardsmen, Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, at www.FreedomAward.mil through Jan. 21, 2013.

Nearly 1 million Americans serve in the Guard and Reserve, making up almost one-half of the nation's total military. For more than 10 years, these citizen warriors have responded to unprecedented national security demands and humanitarian missions spanning the globe. The civilian employers of Guardsmen and Reservists have shared in their service to our nation by standing firmly behind employees, providing essential support and greater peace of mind.

"Employers of every size and industry continue to go to extraordinary lengths to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to employees serving in the Guard and Reserve," said James G. Rebholz, national chairman, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "I urge all Guard and Reserve Service members who have benefited from their employer's support to nominate that employer for this most prestigious award. A Freedom Award nomination allows service members to acknowledge and thank their employer for the essential role they play in supporting their military career and in our nation's defense."

Each year, up to 15 of the nation's most supportive employers are selected as recipients and honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Past Freedom Award recipients supportive measures have included arranging childcare services for deployed employees, sponsoring trips to visit injured employees, and working longer hours to cover the shifts of employees at military training.

The ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee supports the more than 2,700 members of the National Guard and Reserves in Guam and the CNMI. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers.

ESGR's local committee is supported by 18 volunteers and three staff members. ***(ESGR)***

Paid for by the Republican Party of theNMI

★★★★★ PLEASE VOTE ★★★ POT FABOT BOTA ★★★★★

REPUBLICAN PARTY
of the Northern Mariana Islands

#1 DEMAPAN
Ignacia Tudela
for U.S. CONGRESS

#2 BORJA
Joaquin Hoashi
for SENATE
(Tinian)

#4 CRISOSTIMO
Luis Palacios
for SENATE
(Saipan & Northern Islands)

#2 HOCOG
Victor Borja
for SENATE
(Rota)

Election Day
November 6th
Polls Open
7AM - 7PM

★ Your Candidates for House of Representatives ★

PRECINCT 1
CABRERA Eliceo "Eli" Diaz
CABRERA Vicente Camacho
PALACIOS Joseph Mafnas
SEMAN Richard Benavente
DELA CRUZ Ramon Concepcion
LIMES Jose Tilipao

PRECINCT 2
ATALIG Eric Benavente
HOFSCHNEIDER Liana Sablan

PRECINCT 4
IGUEL Sylvestre Ilo
CAMACHO George Norita

PRECINCT 3
RIOS Roy Taisacan
REYES Juan Sablan
SAURES Jose Pua
OGUMORO Felicidad Taman
MARATITA David Reyes
CASTRO Jesus Manibusan

PRECINCT 5
BASA Ramon Sablan
DELEON GUERRERO Frederick Peters

PRECINCT 6
ALDAN Edwin Palacios

PRECINCT 7
SANTOS Teresita Apatang

★ Thank You for Your Support ★ United We Stand, For You and For All. ★

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

BUT YOU'VE ASKED THE WAITER TO COME BACK TEN TIMES!!
ONE MORE MINUTE... I JUST CAN'T DECIDE.
PLEASE DON'T LET HIM BE AHEAD OF ME IN LINE AT MY POLLING PLACE.
Menu
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

My vote

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

On my way into the grocery store, a shopper asked, "Sir, who would you vote for tomorrow?" I politely skirted the issue, given that it's strictly personal. He rambled on that he wasn't voting Republican. At least he got that part of the puzzle solved.

Time permitting, I would have explained myself, not to appease anyone but to illuminate my thoughts and its relationship with the history of familial discipline and values conveyed to us by our parents. Our old folks worked so hard and made it through sheer determination to succeed as rugged individuals. It is the time-honored wisdom that they've conveyed to us that we must honor, especially when tasked with forging the future of our children. This comes tomorrow, Nov. 6.

Recalled as a kid, I would visit my grandma (father's side). I gravitated to and was enamored by her industry, humility, patience, compassion, love, and respect, however destitute. Whenever we meet, she'd bless me by rubbing a cross on my forehead with her right thumb. It was in our prayers together that I found my anchor or sense of spiritual purpose during my formative years.

Grandma was rugged and fierce. I would watch her cook on the wooden stove, astonished as she moved wood around with her hands impervious to fire and hot pots. She raised my dad as a single mom and built her life without handouts but with single-minded determination. She never used a pillow when she retires at night; instead she crosses her arm, hums a lullaby, and slowly drifts into a restful sleep.

Living a resourceful life, through hard and trying conditions, she's done menial jobs with families who could afford to pay her to do laundry until she puts them on hangers before heading home for the day. It was her ruggedness upon which I learned how one earns his dues. It sufficiently grounded my perception in the essence of hard work that leads to the fulfillment of dreams. So what's my point?

It's about values we must protect and constantly nurture in our children, the same way our parents did in our upbringing. It leads prominently to forging good citizenry who have respect for the rule of law and others. It fosters peace and harmony in our community.

Thus, my vote focuses on fostering and securing a stable future for my grandchildren. It's asinine to kick up dust into their faces then ask if they can still see, nor would it help lying to them with polished deceit that there are three sides to a square. Not ready to saddle them with $40K each for 25 years—debt hailing from the $2.3 billion power plant contract that none of us deserves.

Getting rid of the power plant deal and the person who signed it is the only sure way to paving, protecting, ensuring, and forging a brighter future for our children. Must clear the tired Republican platform of persistent demagoguery that has sent many families to sink involuntarily and forcibly into the pits of misery. No more glorification of its persistent failure in nearly every sector of life in the NMI. Enough Is Enough! *No Mas!*

Futuron Famaguonta

Agupa' na ha'ane siempre un' eksisia direchomu man-bota kandidatu siha ni magahet muna' siña i man-sustansiau siha na che'chu' linahyan.

Lau pa'gu na biahimu para i sagan botasion pot futuron famaguon-

See VOTE on Next Page

Tomorrow is Decision Day—Election Day!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Will tomorrow be an ememainimo (choosing by closing our eyes) day or a serious thoughtful selection day? Will we vote through guesswork, choosing the candidates we recognize as relatives or friends? Or will we spend a few minutes thinking about our vote, which could further hurt our country by voting for the wrong person or improve it through thoughtful selection of the proper candidate? Will we be a thoughtless voter or a thinking voter who wants to change and improve our community? Which will we be?

For the past several months we have been blasted with posters along our highways with the faces of so many candidates. All of them wore a big smile. Each had the words: "Please vote for me!"

How many of them explained to us their background? What have they been doing before trying to become legislators? What education and training do they have for the position they are striving to win? How many truly understand our real situation? How many of the candidates explained why they want to be legislators or be re-elected?

We are always reminded that when we go for a job interview we should have a well-prepared résumé explaining all about ourselves and which clearly states why we seek the position. Yet have any of us seen such a résumé of any of the candidates? Why not? Are we supposed to vote for them only because they are a relative or someone with a big flashy smile?

Let us consider that one's actions will affect other people. Here is and an account of two friends who were out on a lake in a rowboat. One fellow took out a small drill and began to drill in the floor of the boat. His friend was flabbergasted. "Are you crazy? What are you doing? You will make a hole in the bottom of the boat. The water will flood in and the boat will sink. We will both drown."

The man with the drill replied, "Don't worry. I'm just drilling the hole under my seat." What the driller forgot and what we must always remember: all human beings are interconnected at the deepest level. What happens to one happens to all. When one person hurts, every other person hurts. When one person prevails, every person prevails. This is why your thoughtful vote is important.

Too often we forget that we belong to the great "family of man" and as such must assume responsibility as a member. One of the golden rules is: We must not separate ourselves from the community. The community is us.

Shortly after World War II, not long after his release from a Nazi concentration camp, Pastor Martin Niemoller, a German theologian, said: "In Germany, they first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionist, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Catholic. Then they came for me. By that time, there was no one left to speak up."

What do the two above little stories have to do with our voting tomorrow? The saddest thing about what is happening to us today is that even though we are on a downhill roller-coaster in our economic life, many of us are afraid to speak up. We still insist on not acting to correct our course because of fear. Instead we create more infighting and more distrust.

How loud and often do we hear the following: "I don't trust him." "He cannot be trusted to work with." Lack of trust seems to scream out loudly today with all the talk of a corrupt government and the attempt at impeachment of our governor. What has happened to us that we don't trust each other?

To me TRUST is the most important character trait of a person. Without trust, a person is only a shell. Trust is the most frequently used frame of reference for our relationship with our families, our friends, our co-workers, and with the people we elect to office. So tomorrow choose wisely and carefully. When we enter the ballot booth we stand alone with our conscience. Tomorrow let us decide carefully and wisely. Can we trust the candidate that we will vote for?

Let us recall the words of Thomas Paine uttered on Dec. 23, 1779: "These are the times that try men's soul's….I thank God, that I fear not. I see no real cause for fear…By perseverance and fortitude we have the prospect of a glorious issue; but with cowardice and submission, the sad choice of a variety of evils."

On March 4, 1933, while the United States was at the bottom of the Great Depression, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the United States, spoke the following inspiring words in his first inaugural address: "This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. …Let me assert that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. …Yet our distress comes from no failure of substance. …Plenty is at our footsteps but a generous use of it languishes in the very sight of the supply. *When there is no vision the people perish. …The measure of the restoration lies in the extent to which we apply social values more noble than mere monetary profit."*

Those of you who are asking us to allow you to lead us must lead us boldly and without fear. To fear or to waver is to plunge us further into confusion and chaos. If you are not strong and determined during these trials, we may not have a community

See TOMORROW on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The autumn of our enchantment

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

"The falling leaves drift by my window, the falling leaves are red and gold," goes the lyrics and tune of our remembering. We are up on the eleventh floor of our Friendship Villa so forget the falling leaves drifting by my window. The leaves of autumn are more like trampled green on the sidewalk still in their limbs stomped over by pedestrians as the leaves in twigs fall *in toto* with the sudden frost and snow dusting on the ground this morning. The snow on the ground was the first this season.

We were duly warned. A week ago, the air suddenly got chilly and our Russian hat with the earflaps saw service under the hood of our parka. For half an hour, fluffy snow fluttered down like feathers and for a while, I thought that we might have an early White Christmas. In September, the long johns made it to the street as we shivered our follicles into the wind.

The "red and gold" comes unmistakably as a beaut! There are whole fields of *yin xin* trees (ginseng, source of vitamin E supplement tablets) on the foothills on Changbaishan (the volcanic crater with the crystal clear lake on the border of China and North Korea) two years ago that turn brilliantly yellow with the winter cold at the onset of autumn.

We have the same trees next door at the Dalu Science and Technology garden's kitty corner from our university. I must have spent a half hour in the wind just gawking at how majestic the straight trunks are as they reach into the sky before shedding their golden leaves to the wind.

We are a bit cozy here, with the steam plant of the provincial government releasing its hot water a week earlier than the scheduled first of November. The weather has gotten more nippy than usual. The regular student dorms do not have similar amenities so woolen pullovers and their synthetic copiers prevail. Nature overwhelms our romantic character as we drool over its colors, even as its cussedness is more manifest elsewhere. Sandy whipped a fury flooding sewage canals, toppling cranes, uprooting trees, making plastic plates and flipping pancakes out of the homes and roads of New England, and sending Bloomberg's NYC back to the sandbox.

There is poetic justice, according to some observers of the U.S. presidential election, where Obama and Romney skirted around the issue of global warming in their rhetoric, most obviously during the debate. Anthropomorphic naturalists personify Sandy as a voice dramatically speaking with a vengeance, and though the freaky Frankenstorm is widely regarded by many scientists as a lovechild of global warming, we will still have the diehard flat-earthers to make the loud denials. Now, Catholic evangelicals join the fray lending intelligent cosmic rationale to the incidences of climate change.

Elsewhere, Guanxi is flooding like the Lijiang (Li River) had never seen water before. It and neighbors Hainan and North Vietnam *(Yuenan)* are taking their turn after Bangkok got the drenching and drubbing last year. The intense occurrences of drought and abrupt atmospheric conditions elsewhere unmistakably have the marks of climate change.

Mother Nature can be beautiful, and in our Ilocano *morantic* (romantic in English) heart, present us with the colors of autumn and enchantment is the order of our sentiment. But there is a cussedness of nature that defies our imagined control over the elements. The human race since the enlightenment separated our self and our rationality *(cogito, ergo, sum)* from its umbilical ties to the processes and forces of nature. We thought nature was a providential gift for our privileged use, which we then turn around to abuse! One does not need to live in the mines of Shanxi and Kentucky to understand how we devastate the environment for a pound of coal and ore. Nature's systems operate way outside our ken, and definitely far from our control.

The oracles of the fallen dogwoods and of Hollywood are having a field day given that the image of December 2012 as the end of the world has become a fixture of this year's journey. Praying communities are on their knees in earnest to invoke divine intervention, not unlike the ancient Egyptian's claim to justify the priestly sacrifice because it ensured the sun rising in the morning!

So, we will heed our own oracle. That would be from Nate Silver of the *NYTimes* who in the last presidential election forecasted the winner in 49 out of 50 States. He does not rely much on statistics, which makes him anathema to the battalion of pundits and political analysts that populate the 24/7 lights of the Boston-New York-Baltimore-Washington, D.C. corridor.

Nate Silver does not think the Obama-Romney tiff is going to be close at all. He predicts that Obama will run away with the election, nay, will breeze to victory with a 75 percent chance of winning. He is even putting his money where his prediction is. He uses a simple method of averaging polls to predict outcome, earning him the label of a fraudulent snake-oil salesman.

The horizon from our perch sees a moderately popular incumbent running against a wavering uncharismatic politico from a party of conservatives, with the latter not even liked by the rightists in his camp. Maybe, I am more optimistic of the maturity of the American voter but why would one see a close contest on this one?

Told you. There is enchantment in my autumn!

TOMORROW

From Page 10

left after the smoke clears. If your do not have the courage, then please drop out of the race.

The solutions are in front of us. But you, candidates, must show integrity, honesty, sincerity, and a willingness to negotiate. We the community will back you and the United States will also back you.

As we vote on Tuesday, we, the citizens, beg those of you who are elected to lead us boldly and unselfishly. Wherein lays the fortitude of our forefathers that forged these islands into the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands?

Stop hiding behind party walls. The more you shout you are a Democrat, Republican, Covenant, or an Independent, you lose your strength and become a follower. Find your beliefs, set goals to them and stand erect and champion them. To do any less is like a soldier cowardly running away from battle. We, the people, place our trust in you starting tomorrow.

I respect all of you who are running for office. I am not suggesting who we, the citizens, should vote or not vote for. What you are asked to do is not easy, yet not impossible.

Please stand tall and LEAD US! We want to say to each candidate: "I believe in you!" Prove to us that our trust in you will not be misguided or abused!

A final reminder to all of us who will vote tomorrow: Think about the kind of community we want. Decide which candidates will most likely match our goals and then vote those candidates into office whether they are relatives or strangers. Let's do it for the country we want. We have the golden opportunity to correct all the anger, mistrust, and corruption we have been exposed to in the past years. We know the truth of what is happening on our beloved islands. Let's correct it tomorrow. Let's not forsake this moment!

And let's do it with a huge smile on our faces as we enter and exit the booth. The smile will light our direction. Have a great day and see you at the polls!

VOTE

From Page 10

mu i gaige gi puntan lapesmu. Estague' impottansiaña agupa' na ha'anen botasion. Pot famaguonta este na eleksion.

Hu diseseha na ti un' repite yan i dumestrosia futtunan famaguonta ta'lu. Hanau fan bota sin Republican. Dispues, diñgu i lugat botasion sin Republican. Ti un' miresi rumepite linala' miserable pot man-finatsun republican.

Na' bali botumu na biahe. Para todu animumu pot nesessidat familiamu atan kau magahet na guaha adelantu gi kualidat linala'mu na tiempu. Kau un' mirese mayogua gi halom guafen miserable?

Areglon futtunan famaguonta gaige gi puntan lapesmu. Pot primet biahe hassu fietmente i lina'la' niha sa' mamirese mas ma'lag na hinanau kumu famaguonta. Obligasionta umesgaihon kareran niha piot guine gi halom mampos chatsaga na chubaskon diskuidon Republicans. Si Yuus Ma'ase`!

Guerun chada'

Ti presisu na un' kanu' un' chada' para un' tuñgu' na gueru. Deste chagu' paguan sa' sumen mutuñg. Nahuñg pauña ya tat presisu na para un' atrebi hau chumochu mutuñg gueru.

Haf' este na dusena pot dusena na chada' gueru ni para un' fana' na biahen eleksion. Un' ñgiñgiñge' fotten mutuñg lau ti un' tuñgu' manu gi halom 'nos kuantos dusena i man-gueru.

Lau hatguatu sa' siempre un' ñgiñge' manu gueru gi halom kahitan chada'. Muñga ma-atrebi hau gumulusune binenu na mutuñg gueru!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The other side of the story

Recently, your publication has released news articles concerning a lawsuit between JG Sablan and the Department of Public Lands. These articles express the decisions of the Superior Court as well as the allegations and opinions of JG Sablan. Unfortunately, DPL's position in this matter is glaringly absent. It is my hope to correct the circumstance through this letter.

As reported, the basis for JG Sablan's lawsuit is their claim that the DPL engaged in discriminatory tactics by terminating their temporary permit to quarry in Marpi, Saipan. These allegations are baseless and are not supported by fact. DPL did not terminate JG Sablan's quarry permit because it is a Chamorro corporation; rather, the permit was terminated because JG Sablan has repeatedly failed to make payments to the DPL over many years and currently owes the DPL over $8,000,000. Race, ethnicity, and national origin are never considerations when determining eligibility for Public Land quarry permits. However, financial ability and past delinquencies in payment obligations are necessary considerations.

As secretary of the DPL, I have the responsibility to manage public lands for the benefit of persons of Northern Marianas descent. It is necessary that DPL collect revenue for the public land that it leases or permits. This money is used for projects such as homesteads and other DPL projects.

DPL has a duty to the people of the Commonwealth to collect money from those who are using public land. JG Sablan has been mining coral from the Marpi quarry for many years. This coral is then sold to their customers for a profit. JG Sablan had agreed to pay the DPL a small amount of money every time they take coral from the quarry and sell it to their customers. However, over the years, JG Sablan has not paid over $8 million to DPL even as their customers paid them for the sale of coral. In other words, JG Sablan had the money to pay DPL because their customers paid them; however, they simply chose not to pay DPL.

Finally, after years of non-payment and broken promises, DPL, in April of this year, gave JG Sablan a 90-day notice to vacate the quarry. JG Sablan refuses to leave and continues to break into the quarry, mine coral and sell it for a profit, all without paying. It is clear to DPL that their current lawsuit is just another stall tactic to keep their operations running business-as-usual without paying. Each day they remain and every dollar they fail to pay hurts the people of the Commonwealth. JG Sablan's unlawful occupation of the quarry, and their current lawsuit, prevent other companies from making use of the quarry. These other companies have the ability and desire to pay for the coral they remove and these payments should be coming to DPL for the benefit of our community.

I hope these words have served to fill in the rest of the story. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ramon Salas
Secretary, Department of Public Lands

Justice

Come Nov. 6, justice will be taken for all the 10 legislators responsible for not voting to impeach Fitial. These are the legislators that still want corruption in our government: Eliceo Diaz Cabrera, Felicidad Ogumoro, George N. Camacho Norita, Ramon S. Basa, Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero, Sylvestre I. Iguel, Stanley T. Torres, Joseph M. Palacios, Teresita A. Santos, and Raymond D. Palacios. My good people of the CNMI, write these names down, for these people are the sons and daughters of the god of land. If you don't want to be kicked off the island, don't vote for any of these legislators. Susan Guerrero, who do you think you are to kick out people of the CNMI? Are you high on drugs or are you just plain stupid? We all know who is your god.

Edwardo K. Peter
Tigard, Oregon

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°

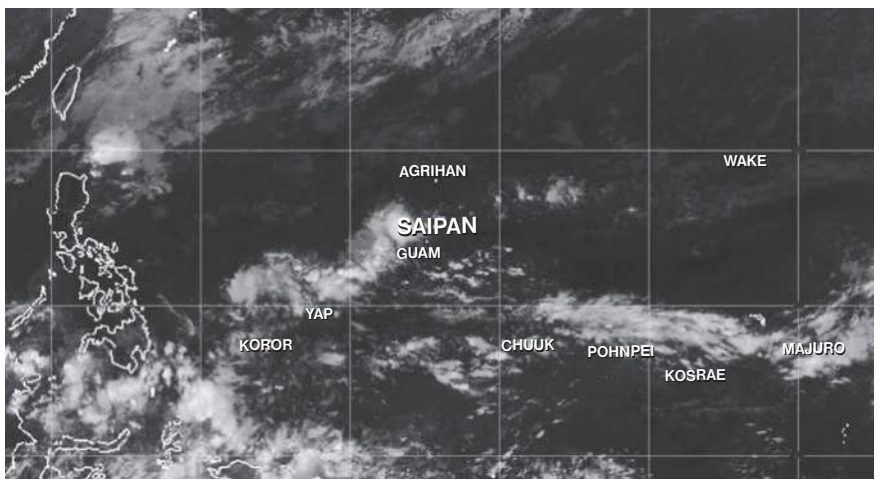
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼82

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲52	▼32
Hong Kong	Showers	▲78	▼72
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼73
London	Showers	▲48	▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲73	▼65
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼64
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼32
Osaka	Showers	▲64	▼55
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼43
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼48
Rome	Thundershowers	▲71	▼55
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲77	▼58
Seoul	Showers	▲53	▼43
Tokyo	Showers	▲63	▼57
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲50	▼36

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from 25N146E to beyond 130E at 19N. A narrow band of low cloudiness and scattered light showers are found along the shear line including Iwo To island. More extensive cloudiness and light showers are present along and up to 400 miles northwest of the shear line. A cold front extends westward from 19N180 to 19N176E then continues southwestward as a shear line past Wake Island and Guam to north of Yap at 10N138E. Patchy low cloudiness and light showers are present along and up to 150 miles north of the front and shear line as far west as 16N158E beyond that point. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 270 miles north of the shear line including the Marianas. A near equatorial trough runs southeastward from 5N130E to the equator at 145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located near Koror and over Yap within an area bounded by 3N130E to 10N138E to 7N145E to 1N144E back to 3N130E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Pohnpei and north of Kosrae between 9N and 6N from 158E to 168E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Majuro within 50 miles of a line from 8N171E to 9N175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:24 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
12:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15 AM	5:47 PM
Tuesday	6:15 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:15 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:49 PM	11:04 AM
Tuesday	11:40 PM	11:47 AM
Wednesday		12:29 PM
Thursday	12:31 AM	1:11 PM
Friday	1:23 AM	1:53 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCT. 27, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1	0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	7:10pm	Daily	0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				**PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)**			
UZ608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	0Z607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				**VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN**			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week	VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
				PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
				0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM				
0Z604/749	3:30pm	11:10pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	11:25pm	7:55am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Thank you

Dear Mr. Leon Guerrero: I am writing on behalf of my family and the entire San Roque community to formally express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the assistance that you've provided in the disposal of garbage at the San Roque cemetery in preparation for All Saints' and All Souls' Day 2012. After I requested for assistance from LG Private Investigation Services, you deployed personnel, which included yourself, to haul quite an extensive amount of garbage at the personal expense of your company as a form of community service to the residents of San Roque and the entire residents of Matansa without delay.

Because of the assistance that LG PIS was able to render under your direct supervision and leadership, the entire Catholic community whose loved ones are buried at that sacred site were able to pay their respects with ease, satisfaction, and humility on Nov. 1 and 2.

Once again, thank you for your assistance and kindness and I wish you the best of success in operating your small but active contributing member of the business community.

Edwin B. Camacho
San Roque, Saipan

An open letter to Robert Puhalla

As a strong supporter and an extended family member of Sen. Luis Palacios Crisostomo, I want to respond to Mr. Richard Puhalla's letter why our good senator has not withdrawn his candidacy due to illness.

Unlike so many faced with similar circumstances, Sen. Crisostimo's illness only strengthens his will and determination to serve the Commonwealth. While your prayers for his recovery is greatly appreciated, many do not agree that he should step down from his candidacy. He is a proven public servant and leader for many years. He stands up for what is right and just for the people. He is humble, caring, approachable, unselfish of his time and resources, and listens to the needs and concerns of the people. He is well loved by our community. We want him back in the Senate!

I fully support the re-election of Sen. Crisostimo and the same holds true for countless relatives and friends. Sen. Crisostimo is a good-hearted person who has helped so many in the areas of education, sports, medical referral, and non-profit organizations. He has done so much for our community and will continue to do so.

Therefore, Mr. Puhalla, I invite you to continue to pray for our good senator. Please join me and many others to vote for the re-election of Sen. Crisostimo this November.

Gonzalo DLG Pangelinan
Finasisu, Saipan

PRECINCT 3A AND 3B
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
November 6, 2012

INSTRUCTIONS
1. **VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE IN EACH RACE BY DARKENING THE OVAL (⬬) PROVIDED TO THE LEFT OF THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE.**
2. **VOTE FOR NO MORE CANDIDATES THAN THERE ARE OFFICES TO BE FILLED. IF YOU VOTE FOR MORE CANDIDATES THAN THERE ARE OFFICES TO BE FILLED. YOUR VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED FOR THAT RACE.**

DELEGATE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Vote for No More than One (1)

⬭ 1 DEMAPAN, Ignacia Tudela (Republican)
⬭ 2 SABLAN, Gregorio Kilili Camacho (Independent)

SENATE
Vote for No More than One (1)

⬭ 1 BERMUDES, Illuminanda Reyes (Independent)
⬭ 2 YUMUL, Ray Naraja (Independent)
⬭ 3 TEREGEYO, Ana Sablan (Covenant)
⬭ 4 CRISOSTOMO, Luis Palacios (Republican)

SAIPAN & NORTHERN ISLANDS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Vote for No More than Three (3)

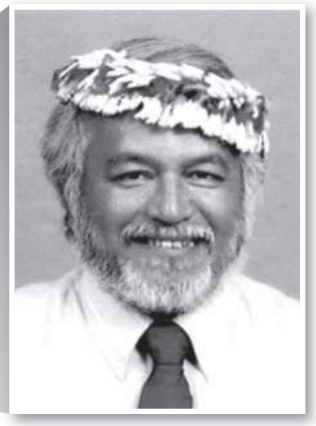
⬭ 1 CAMACHO, Ramon Jose Blas
⬭ 2 TUDELA, Antonia Manibusan

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Vote for No More than Two (2)

⬭ 1 ADA, Marylou Seman
⬭ 2 CEPEDA, Victorino Sablan
⬭ 3 TENORIO, Janice Marie Ada
⬭ 4 HOCOG, Angel Songao

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Vote for No More than Six (6)

⬭ 1 YUMUL, Ralph Naraja (Independent)
⬭ 2 CABRERA, Ignacio Villagomez (Independent)
⬭ 3 RIOS, Roy Taisacan (Republican)
⬭ 4 LIZAMA, Raymond Basa (Independent)
⬭ 5 DELA CRUZ, Francisco Santos (Independent)
⬭ 6 FAJARDO, Mariano Deleon Guerrero (Independent)
⬭ 7 REYES, Juan Sablan (Republican)
⬭ 8 SAURES, Jose Pua (Republican)
⬭ 9 TEBUTEB, Ramon Angailen (Independent)
⬭ 10 OGUMORO, Felicidad Taman (Republican)
⬭ 11 VILLAGOMEZ, Edmund Joseph Sablan (Covenant)
⬭ 12 TORRES, Brian Ayuyu (Covenant)
⬭ 13 BENAVENTE, Anthony Tenorio (Independent)
⬬ **14 TORRES, Stanley Estanislao Tudela McGinnis** (Independent)
⬭ 15 MARATITA, David Reyes (Republican)
⬭ 16 CASTRO, Jesus Manibusan (Republican)



JUSTICE/JUDGE RETENTION
Vote Yes or No

Shall Justice Alexandro Cruz Castro of the CNMI Supreme Court be retained in office?
⬭ YES
⬭ NO

Shall Judge David Arthur Wiseman of the CNMI Superior Court be retained in office?
⬭ YES
⬭ NO

Shall Judge Perry borja Inos of the CNMI Superior Court be retained in office?
⬭ YES
⬭ NO

SAMPLE BALLOT

Please Vote on BOTH sides

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(Mr. Lee, Pro Golfer / LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort Head Coach)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PSS failed students

The federal government gives over $30 million to PSS every year and PSS should take care of those students who are failing by providing funds for after-school programs and summer programs. PSS conducts standardized achievement tests every year for students. They know how many students are failing, but they fail to provide the appropriate education necessary to take care of those students at risk. Many dedicated teachers would like to work after school to help their students get the extra help they need but cannot. Everyone knows that the PSS graduation rate is closer to 70s and not the 90s as PSS would try to make us believe. You can't simply take the number of students in grade 9 and match the number of students that graduate four years later. It's not the number, it's the actual student, and when you do that you see that our kids are failing, dropping out, transferring, and being retained more and more and the actual graduation rate is poor.

PSS must be held accountable for those high school students who are failing and not graduating. And students who are graduating and choosing to stay on island to go to school are still failing the NMC placement tests, which are really basic skills tests. If I were a parent of one of those students, I would take PSS to court for failing my child. To substantiate the case, the federal law mandates that "no child will be left behind." I encourage all parents and high school students to Google the No Child Left Behind regulations. You must protect your rights because PSS is leaving our children behind. I also want to say thank you NMC for the transparency and honesty of your report.

It's a shame for the commissioner of education to come out and say there is no money to hire new teachers. Recently, many teachers and even principals either quit or retired from PSS, not because they wanted to, not because of the economy, but more because Rita Sablan has made a mess of PSS. And after they left PSS, what happened to the money that was paying for those salaries? Under the government budget and accounting procedures, that money will lapse and remain until the vacant position is filled. It means there actually should be money to replace those teachers. Unless the commissioner of education through the Board of Education, reprogram that money for other purposes. Such as new furniture or off-island shopping trips to Washington under the guise of needing to have a federal meeting. One trip for two or three of them can cost more than a teacher's salary. If this is the case, where is Rita Sablan's priority?

We elected the Board of Education to do their fiduciary duty to administer PSS funds, so what happened to the money for those vacant teachers? What efforts have they done to hire new teachers? And why aren't they hiring new teachers? The Legislature is busy investigating in the impeachment process, yet no time to investigate why PSS is not hiring new teachers when in fact there is money. If the teachers' salary money was reprogrammed, why? The community deserves to know. The fandango with the $34 million ARRA funds is over at PSS. Now they are claiming no money. Whose fault? Whose failure? It's all PSS' fault. I encourage the PTA councils to speak up and fight for your children's education.

Parents, you also deserve to know why the maintenance-of-effort waiver application was found insufficient by U.S. Department of Education. Is there a financial audit issue? Did Rita Sablan spend too much money on things she shouldn't have? And why was the application not available for public inspection? This is a serious matter, and now they need Congressman Kilili to intervene for PSS? The Legislature and the governor must also step in to find out the real story behind this mess. Why was the PSS application for a waiver was found lacking in sufficiency and deemed "totally inconsistent" with federal standards? Did PSS commit the local funds without first obtaining the approval of the Legislature and the governor? All of this mess is under the management of the present Board of Education and the commissioner of education. They must be held accountable.

My mission is (1) to encourage parents to speak up for their children's education (2) to stop the mismanagement at PSS, and (3) to help those unfortunate students who were being deceived by PSS.

Remi R. Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

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Fehman Pinitin-mami

I'm a junior in high school and it is painful to witness and hear an impeachment proceeding live on TV. Witnessing the different testimonials of officials was so appalling. We the young ones are so confused that some people are blindsided by greed. We the *manhoben* are so eager to stand up for our rights and beliefs and do something about it but we have to wait two or more years to do something about it, which is done through casting our votes.

Since we are not there yet, I humbly ask all voters that when you go to vote this election day, look at the path that we are currently on and ask your heart and then look at your children that are going to suffer and do something right to make our livelihood better. I ask you, the adults, the *man'amko*, who can exercise the right to vote to please make the right decision when the time comes this election day.

I want to express my concerns and opinions as a youth in today's generation and I encourage others to do the same! *Hu gagaogao todos hamyu ni manmanbobota na pot fabot, hasso i lina'lan i famagu'on-miyu yan i nuebu na henerasion, todu ham i manhoben gi mamaila'na tiempo, sa'in lili'e yan in ekspererensia i chinatsaga yan i pinadesi todu hita yan hami ni manhoben espesiatmenti. Bota I maolek na kindidatu ni para u ayuda hit todu. Hagu ha' yan i korason-mu tumungo hayi un bota. Pot fabot, cho'gue i dinanche na desisasion. Si yu'us ma'ase!*

Elvin Quitugua
As Teo, Saipan

Waste of funds

The $20,000 appropriation for the Saipan mayor's animal shelter sewer disposal system is a noble effort, but frankly it is a total waste, worse than the waste that they are trying to take care of. A simple solution that would cost taxpayers nothing is to take advantage of Mother Nature. Animal waste mixed with sawdust would turn into compost. We already have the constant heat to grow the organism in the composting mix, so this too is an abundant supply from nature. The final compost could be donated to farmers as fertilizers and the best organic vegetables could be grown, free of artificial fertilizers that are laced with cancer causing chemicals.

During the Japanese time this farming method was used and all was well. As a young child, my grandfather used cow and pig manure for fertilizer straight from the pen and ground. Even today, in Korea, human waste is being used to grow one of the most healthy napa cabbage and other seasonal vegetables. And, the list could be stretched out far from our imagination, but the point is, we could do better.

Frankly, the $20,000 appropriation is a waste, much worse than the animal shelter waste, and the byproducts of what we are wasting is the best for our soil and organic food production. This is just a food for thought, and I am hoping that our lawmaking representatives are taking this points into consideration.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

2 good Samaritans receive 'Ruth Tighe Good Citizen' Award

On CNMI Citizenship Day, Nov. 4, 2012, a newly formed anti-corruption group, Rising Tide, awarded two individuals with the "Ruth Tighe Good Citizen" commendation, in honor of the CNMI's citizen extraordinaire, Ruth L. Tighe, who passed away on Oct. 17.

In Ruth's last paragraph of her last "On My Mind" column, she called on the CNMI's leaders to do something to celebrate CNMI Citizenship Day rather than letting it pass unnoticed: "*The 'holiday' of Commonwealth Cultural Day went by unnoticed, as did Labor Day last month. Will the same be true of Citizenship Day, on November 4th? No rallying, no parties, no inspirational messages, at the very least? Leader, where art thou?"* (Ruth L. Tighe, On My Mind, Oct. 12, 2012)

"We at Rising Tide honor Ruth's memory and request by celebrating this 2012 CNMI Citizenship Day with the launch of our "Good Citizen" award program. These awards will go to individuals who contribute to the rising tide of hope in our community, as Ruth did throughout her life," said Rising Tide member Glen Hunter.

Rising Tide has selected the following two individuals to jointly receive the first of these awards:

■ Thyse Tutiy, for coming to the aid of two tourists who were attacked by a purse snatcher in Garapan on Oct. 15, 2012. After 911 was called, this brave teen spotted the suspect, chased after him and kept him in sight, and assisted police in apprehending him. He also retrieved the victims' passports and purse.

■ Jayson Garcia Abigania, for assisting the victim in a hit-and-run caused by an allegedly intoxicated police officer on Oct. 27, 2012, in Kannat Tabla. This courageous citizen witnessed the incident, called 911, and followed the suspect's police vehicle until other officers were able to make the arrest.

In addition to receiving the Ruth Tighe Good Citizen Award, these individuals will each receive a special gift package as a token of the community's appreciation for their praiseworthy acts of civic duty. ***(PR)***

NMC Foundation contractor preparing for a final report

Strategies for Philanthropy has been working on the planning study for the NMC Foundation that will help establish a newly incorporated organization that will serve as the fundraising arm for the Northern Marianas College. In addition, the study will create an infrastructure, plan, and strategies to enhance fundraising efforts.

The final report and all supporting documents will be presented to the Board of Regents in early November.

The company has completed the first ever draft of the roles and responsibilities of Foundation board members. This draft has been sent to the board for review.

Strategies for Philanthropy also did 18 interviews with community leaders to assess their views about the college, the Foundation, and their views for the future of the college and its fundraising efforts. These interviews will be summarized in the final report and will help establish the new Foundation's future direction.

According to Strategies for Philanthropy CEO Steve West, "This is the first time during the college's 30 years these people can remember being visited by the college in this manner. They are pleased to be part of it and look forward to receiving further information regarding the outcomes of this study."

The company has identified various constituencies—including past donors and college alumni—and the materials needed for the creation and input of a centralized database that has not existed before.

The company is also working on the first ever "Case for Support," a document that is the justification for support of the college.

"We are extremely pleased with Mr. West's work, the areas he has identified where we need to improve and the pace at which he has been able to accomplish a great deal of work," said Alan Markoff, NMC Foundation interim president.

West is also helping develop strategies needed to recruit new board members. He will also be developing additional policies and procedures.

He will also be researching and reviewing the memoranda of understanding of other community colleges and public universities with their related organizations and foundations. ***(NMC Foundation)***

Gold's Gym to host first ever Zumba master class in NMI

Carolina Arias, a Zumba education specialist in New Zealand and Australia, is set to offer the first ever Zumba Fitness Master Class on Saipan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Zumba fanatics will have all the reasons to get fit this month as Carolina Arias, a Zumba education specialist in New Zealand and Australia, is set to offer the first ever Zumba Fitness Master Class on Saipan.

Originally from Chile, Arias moved in 2006 to New Zealand where she became a Zumba fitness instructor in 2009 after falling in love with the fun and effective workout system that combines Latin and international music. She then became a Zumba education specialist in 2010.

Elitza Stoilova, licensed Zumba fitness instructor on Saipan, said Arias will arrive on island on Nov. 9 for the Zumba Fitness Master Class from 5pm to 6:30pm at Gold's Gym in Garapan.

Stoilova said this will be Arias' first visit to the CNMI and she is excited to make new friends in Zumba Fitness.

Arias will team up with licensed Zumba instructor Josh Pocaigue of Guam for Friday's event, which will offer Zumba buffs and wannabes incredible routines and new moves with international hit songs for 1.5 hours of Zumba fun.

Stoilova said this is a chance for Zumba enthusiasts on Saipan to enjoy a world-class Zumba Fitness Party live.

Entrance to the event costs $10 per person and is inclusive of one raffle ticket for a chance to win any of exciting prizes and refreshments from Gold's Gym.

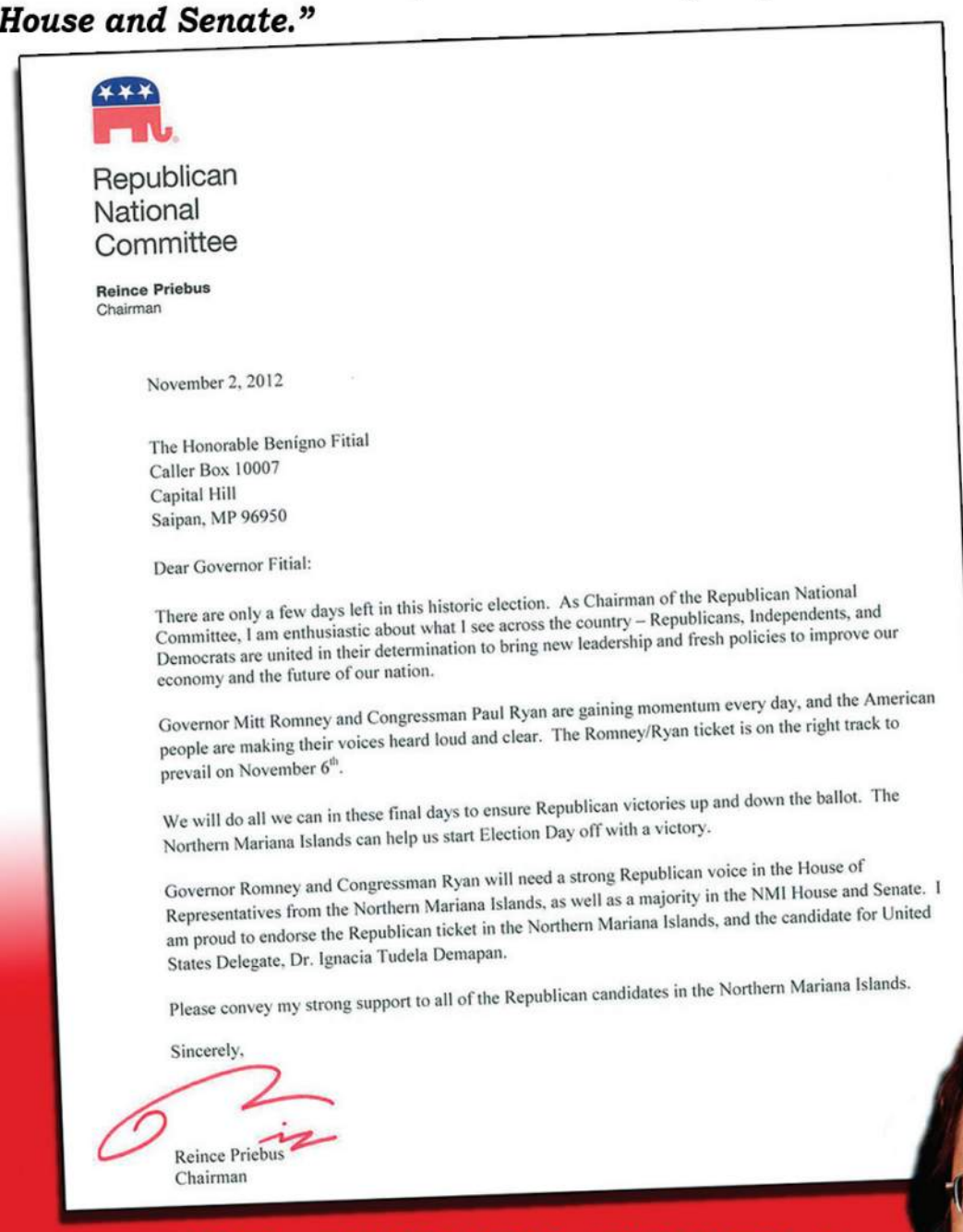
Interested individuals are encouraged to pre-register at Gold's Gym due to limited space.

Additionally, Stoilova said that Arias will take the lead in the Saipan Zumba Fitness Instructor Training on Nov. 10.

"We expect Zumba Fitness fans from Guam to fly to Saipan and attend the events," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

For more information, call 233-4000.

"Governor Romney and Congressman Ryan will need a strong Republican voice in the House of Representatives from the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as a majority in the NMI House and Senate."



Republican National Committee

Reince Priebus
Chairman

November 2, 2012

The Honorable Benigno Fitial
Caller Box 10007
Capital Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Fitial:

There are only a few days left in this historic election. As Chairman of the Republican National Committee, I am enthusiastic about what I see across the country – Republicans, Independents, and Democrats are united in their determination to bring new leadership and fresh policies to improve our economy and the future of our nation.

Governor Mitt Romney and Congressman Paul Ryan are gaining momentum every day, and the American people are making their voices heard loud and clear. The Romney/Ryan ticket is on the right track to prevail on November 6th.

We will do all we can in these final days to ensure Republican victories up and down the ballot. The Northern Mariana Islands can help us start Election Day off with a victory.

Governor Romney and Congressman Ryan will need a strong Republican voice in the House of Representatives from the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as a majority in the NMI House and Senate. I am proud to endorse the Republican ticket in the Northern Mariana Islands, and the candidate for United States Delegate, Dr. Ignacia Tudela Demapan.

Please convey my strong support to all of the Republican candidates in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sincerely,

Reince Priebus
Chairman

REINCE PRIEBUS
RNC CHAIRMAN

"I am proud to endorse the Republican ticket in the Northern Mariana Islands, and the candidate for United States Delegate, Dr. Ignacia Tudela Demapan."

REPUBLICAN PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

#1 DR. IGNACIA TUDELA DEMAPAN

REPUBLICAN *for* U.S. DELEGATE

Paid for by the Committee-to-Elect Ignacia Tudela Demapan

Native languages materials show value of congressional 'earmarks'

Students in 16 Public School System schools are learning and using their Refaluwasch and Chamorro languages as a result of new instructional materials the Public School System has created with a $250,000 earmarked appropriation from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

The delegate got to see a selection of the book, flipcharts, and other learning aids that the PSS bilingual program has produced using the earmark funds at this month's Board of Education meeting. A total of 7,560 books, 150 flip charts, and a series of 16 videos were produced with the congressionally directed funding.

Sablan

"It's great to see the results of the work that we did in Congress way back in 2009 finally getting into the hands of our young Refaluwasch and Chamorro language students," Sablan said. "Because getting the funding is just the first step. Then there is all of the work to put the money to effective use in our schools: translating the materials, getting everything printed and filmed, and training teachers in how to use these resources. PSS and the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies program have done a fine job in that respect."

Sablan submitted his $250,000 proposal for bilingual study funds during the fiscal year 2010 appropriation cycle; and after making it through the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate the bill with Sablan's money was signed by the President on Dec. 16, 2009. Altogether Sablan won $1.35 million in congressionally directed funding, or "earmarks," for the Northern Marianas in fiscal year 2010. Most went to education.

PSS was formally awarded the funding in August of 2010.

PSS bought the rights to translate newly published, Common Core aligned, Bright and Brainy Resource Books for grades K-6 into Refaluwasch and Chamorro. Professional development/work sessions were held for local teachers to work on the translations.

The grant also underwrote the cost of producing a first-ever televised program that took language lessons right into the homes of Northern Marianas viewers and provided teachers with a total of 16 episodes to be used in classrooms.

Fiscal year 2010 was the last fiscal year that congressional earmarks were available. Senate Republicans, who objected to the earmarking process on principle, killed the 2011 appropriation with the threat of a filibuster. That appropriation contained another $2 million for the Northern Marianas, including funds for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitors Center, a Rota school gymnasium, a seniors program on Tinian, and another $500,000 for PSS.

"We have seen the last of earmarks," Sablan said, "as long as Republicans are able to block legislation in this way. That makes it especially hard for small places like the Northern Marianas, which now have to compete for funds against states and cities that have a lot more resources to put into grant writing.

"I am glad to see, however, that the funds we did get—for the Refaluwasch and Chamorro language programs, for the Joeten-Kiyu Library roof repairs, for the Garapan Public Market, for the Monument Visitors Center—are being put to use now to benefit the Northern Marianas." ***(PR)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
ITB13-GOV-001

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Drill Rig on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project Scope of Work and Proposal Forms will be available on or after **October 15, 2012** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00** AM, on **October 26, 2012**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on **October 25, 2012.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-001**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM local time **November 13, 2012.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 PM local time **November 13, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 13, 2012**, and must be received no later than 2:00 PM **November 23, 2012.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 PM local time, **November 23, 2012.** However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 PM local time on **November 13, 2012.**

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial,
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 13-GOV-002

Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The project Scope of Work will be available on or after **October 15, 2012** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **October 26, 2012** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**Construction Management/Contract Compliance", RFP 13-GOV-002.** One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m., November 13, 2012 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV- 022

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Leak Detection and Repairs for Garapan Tourist Center in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior and the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA and EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Contractor shall identify, report, and repairs leaks in the water distribution system, to include but not limited to mainline leaks, residential meter leaks, fire hydrants, mainline valve leaks, and other appurtenant parts of the distribution system. Contractor shall also report and repair or replace inoperable fire hydrant and valves. Contractor shall identify the models, make and part number or identification of any existing meters, hydrants or valves, which were repaired.
- Installation of valves, air relief valves, blow-off valves, fire hydrants and fittings.
- Contractor will, for each identified leak, submit a repair schedule and cost estimate for the repair including restoration of the repair sites (cushioning, backfilling/compaction and asphalting). Pavement restoration, predominantly along the road traffic, shall be expeditiously restored initially using lean concrete as basecourse. Compaction test must be submitted prior to paving.
- Contractor shall identify, report, and resolve areas of potential backflow within the water distribution system. Contractor, upon notification from WTF as forwarded from CUC, shall investigate complaints of low water pressure in the distribution system. This may indicate a substantial leak has occurred.
- Contractor will trace unrecorded service lines to their point of origin.
- Contractor shall identify, report, cut and cap abandoned lines and laterals serving vacant buildings or other facilities.
- Contractor shall provide a detailed daily report to WTF and CUC to include findings, cause of leak, steps taken to resolve the problem, materials used and type of testing performed.
- Contractor shall check all water customer service and shall report to WTF and CUC overflowing cisterns/tanks for CUC-Water Division enforcement.
- Contractor shall isolate the line subjected for repairs and shall take various pressure readings at different times before and after the repair. Contractor shall submit a pressure reading logs. Contractor shall ensure that all existing customers affected by line isolation are reconnected to the water system.
- Asphalt Road restoration.
- Repairs procedures shall be in compliance with the requirements of the CUC Water Division, DEQ, AWWA Standards, OSHA regulations and USDOT FHWA standards.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **November 5, 2012** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00** a.m., on **November 16, 2012**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on **November 15, 2012**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-022**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **December 4, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **December 4, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 4, 2012**, and must be received no later than **December 14, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **December 14, 2012**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **December 4, 2012**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Why Initiative 17-12 is important to NMC

Universities and community colleges across the nation typically have a mission statement that indicates the institution's aims, values, and reason for existing. In order to remain effective, these institutions of higher education revisit their mission statements periodically to ensure that the statements are relevant, appropriate, and reflective of the community that the colleges and universities serve.

As it stands now, the Northern Marianas College's mission statement—established more than 25 years ago—is currently fixed and embedded in the CNMI Constitution. Because it is written into the CNMI Constitution, the college is limited in its ability to revisit the mission statement on a periodic basis to make necessary adjustments to reflect evolving community needs.

To change this, NMC worked with the Legislature in drafting an initiative that would amend the Constitution to give the college the authority and flexibility to establish its mission statement.

"Effective organizations, especially postsecondary institutions, must evolve responsibly in order to continually improve and grow as a reflection of the communities that they serve," according to Leo Pangelinan, NMC dean of Student Services. "Just as [NMC] must evolve and grow to reflect the community it serves, the changing economic landscape of the CNMI, and global trends in education, so, too must its mission statement."

The passage of Initiative 17-12 also helps the college better comply with accreditation standards, according to NMC president Sharon Hart, Ph.D.

These standards state that the Northern Marianas College should have a mission statement that defines the institution's broad educational purposes, its intended student population, and its commitment to achieving student learning.

Equally important, accreditation standards require that the mission statement of NMC should be reviewed on a regular basis using the institution's governance and decision making processes and should be revised when necessary.

Without the passage of Initiative 17-12, the college will be limited in its ability to review the mission statement on a regular basis. Without 17-12, the college will not be able to make any updates to the mission statement without undergoing a constitutional amendment, which can be a lengthy and arduous process.

"We hope that voters see the importance of passing this initiative for the college," said Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services.

NMC has been hosting outreach activities to help educate voters about the initiative, including having an information booth at the Sabalu Market, the Tuesday Market, and the Thursday Street Market. ***(NMC)***

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2013. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
5. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
6. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
7. Workmen's Compensation Policy
8. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
9. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
10. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
11. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (Quarry, Ready-Mix Cement, & Hardware Store)
12. Company background
13. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
14. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 5, 2012 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

"NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender, and employer"

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE GUAM AND CNMI MILITARY RELOCATION (2012 ROADMAP ADJUSTMENTS) AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The Department of the Navy (Navy) announces its intent to expand the scope of the ongoing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for a Live-Fire Training Range Complex (LFTRC) on Guam to Support the Guam Military Relocation. The SEIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts from construction and operation of a LFTRC on Guam and construction and operation of a main cantonment area, including family housing, and associated infrastructure on Guam to support the relocation of a substantially reduced number of Marines than previously analyzed.

The SEIS supplements the Final EIS for the "Guam and CNMI Military Relocation; Relocating Marines from Okinawa, Visiting Aircraft Carrier Berthing, and Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force" dated July 2010. The Record of Decision for the Final EIS was signed on September 20, 2010, and published in the Federal Register on September 30, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 189, Page 60438). The SEIS is being prepared for the limited purpose of supplementing the 2010 Final EIS regarding the establishment of a LFTRC; a main cantonment area, including family housing; and associated infrastructure on Guam.

The Navy will host public open house scoping meetings on Guam to obtain comments on the project scope and identify specific environmental concerns or topics for consideration in the SEIS.

The public is encouraged to attend the open house scoping meetings, which will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

- Thursday, November 8, 2012, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Bldg. 4175 Gym/Cafeteria (Old McCool School near Southern High School) Route 5 Magazine Road, Santa Rita, Guam;
- Friday, November 9, 2012, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Okkodo High School, Dededo, Guam; and
- Saturday, November 10, 2012, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm, University of Guam Field House, Mangilao, Guam.

Informational posters will be displayed and subject matter experts will be available during the open house meetings to discuss the proposed action, to answer questions, and to accept comments from the public.

Written comments may be submitted at the scoping meetings. A Chamorro interpreter will be available. Interested agencies, individuals, and groups unable to attend the open house public scoping meetings are encouraged to submit comments by December 10, 2012, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST). Mailed comments should be postmarked no later than December 10, 2012, ChST to ensure they are considered.

Mail comments to: Joint Guam Program Office Forward
P.O. 153246
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

Comments may also be submitted via the website http://guambuildupeis.us/

Business

Solid job growth in last reading before election

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States added a solid 171,000 jobs in October, and more than a half-million Americans joined the work force, the latest signs that the uneven economic recovery is gaining strength once again.

In addition, more jobs were added in August and September than believed. But the unemployment rate inched up to 7.9 percent because not all those joining the work force found work, the government said Friday.

The report was the final snapshot of the economy before the presidential election.

"The economy is in a lot better shape than most people believe," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "That sets us up for stronger growth next year no matter who is elected on Tuesday."

A government survey of households found that 578,000 Americans joined the work force in October, the Labor Department said. Of those, 470,000 found work. The difference is why the unemployment rate rose from 7.8 percent in September.

Home prices are finally rising, and retailers and car companies this week reported stronger sales. Consumer confidence in October reached its highest point in almost five years, and stocks are within reach of record highs.

Big businesses are still cautious, partly because of slowing global demand for their goods. But the report found that they continued to add jobs in greater numbers than they did last spring.

A second government survey, of large companies and government agencies, yielded the 171,000 number. Companies added 184,000 jobs, the most since February, and federal, state and local governments cut 13,000.

The report was compiled before Superstorm Sandy struck the East Coast earlier this week and devastated many businesses. Some economists think the rebuilding in the Northeast will add to construction jobs in the months ahead.

The government also revised its data to show that 84,000 more jobs were added in August and September than previously estimated. August's job gain was revised to 192,000 from 142,000, and September's to 148,000 from 114,000.

For the third time since the recovery from the Great Recession began in June 2009, the economy appears to be picking up momentum.

Since July, the economy has created an average of 173,000 jobs a month. That is up from an average of 67,000 a month from April through June.

The pickup in hiring suggests that businesses aren't as worried as many analysts thought about the package of tax increases and spending cuts known as the "fiscal cliff" that will take effect unless Congress acts by Jan. 1.

Companies have cut back spending on computers, industrial machinery and other heavy equipment in recent months. That was seen by many economists as a sign of concern about the cliff and Europe's economic deterioration.

But better consumer demand may be encouraging employers to hire more employees anyway. James Marple, an economist at TD Bank, said hiring could take off next year if the fiscal cliff is avoided.

"The fact that businesses are continuing to expand even with huge fiscal uncertainty means that once this cloud lifts, the pace of job creation has lots of room to accelerate," he said.

One big question is whether consumers will be able to keep spending enough to propel growth. Average hourly wages rose only 1.1 percent in the past 12 months, the slowest annual pace on records dating back to 1965.

But the economy has added 1.6 million jobs in 10 months this year. All those new paychecks mean more demand for goods and services, which should lead to more hiring. The country could enter what economists call a virtuous cycle, an escalating loop of hiring, more spending and still more hiring.

Politically, the report was more neutral. It allowed both President Barack Obama and his Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, political ammunition in the fading days of the campaign.

It allowed Obama to argue that the economy has added jobs for 25 consecutive months, since September 2010, and that the private sector has added jobs for 32 consecutive months, since February 2010.

Campaigning in Hilliard, Ohio, the president said: "We've made real progress, but we are here today because we know we've got more work to do. Our fight goes on."

The report allowed the Romney campaign, however, to argue that the unemployment rate will be higher on Election Day than it was on Inauguration Day in January 2009, when it was 7.8 percent.

"I won't waste any time complaining about my predecessor," Romney said at a rally in West Allis, Wis. "From Day One, I will go to work to help Americans get back to work."

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-005
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of office supplies for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Packet may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $50.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 21, 2012**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email in PDF format, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposal will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **October 25, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this bid must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 30, 2012** to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email-christie.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-007
AUTOMOBILE RENTAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for Automobile Rental Services on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Packet may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $50.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Automobile Rental Services" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 19, 2012**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email in PDF format, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposal will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **October 26, 2012 at 1:00 PM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this bid must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 29, 2012** to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email-christie.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

NOTICE OF MEETING
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Date: Friday, November 09, 2012
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Northern Marianas College
BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

I. Call Meeting to Order (9:30a.m – 9:50a.m)
a. Roll Call
b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
1. September 12, 2012 – Regular Meeting
2. September 26, 2012 – Special Meeting
3. October 12, 2012 – Special Meeting

II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may orally testify on items on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. **(9:50a.m – 10:00a.m)**

III. Board Chair's Remarks (10:00a.m. – 10:10a.m)

IV. WASC Accreditation Update (10:10a.m – 10:30a.m.)

V. Old Business
a. Performance Evaluation of the NMC President (10:30a.m – 11:00a.m.)
b. Board Policy for Consideration – First Reading (11:00a.m – 11:30a.m.)
1. Repeal of old Board Policies – Student Services (Action Item)
2. Repeal of old Board Policies – Human Resources (Action Item)

Lunch Break 11:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.

c. Board Policy for Consideration – Second Reading (1:00p.m. – 1:30p.m)
1. Board Policy No. 401–Residency Classification **(Action Item)**
2. Board Policy No. 402–Student Health Insurance **(Action Item)**
3. Board Policy No. 206.3–Budget, Audit and Finance Committee **(Action Item)**
4. Board Policy No. 203.1–President's Authority and Responsibilities **(Action Item)**
5. Board Policy No. 206 – Policy Introduction, Amendment, Passage & Suspension **(Action Item)**
6. Board Policy No. 206.3 – Budget, Audit and Finance Committee **(Action Item)**

VI. New Business (1:30p.m – 1:45p.m)
a. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

VII. Legislative Update (1:45p.m – 1:50p.m)

VIII. Reports (1:50p.m – 2:50p.m.)
a. President's Report
b. Dean of Administration Report Program Highlights–Math Programs
c. Peer Analysis – Student Profile Data
d. BOR Standing Committees
1. Budget and Finance Committee
2. Program Committee
3. AdHOC Committees

IX. Board Self-Evaluation (2:50p.m – 3:00p.m)

X. Executive Session (3:00p.m – 4:00p.m)
(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

XI. Upcoming Board Activities (4:00p.m)
1. Schedule Next Regular Meeting
2. BOR Retreat

XII. Adjournment

/s/ Juan T. Lizama
BOR Chairperson

Date: November 01, 2012

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-008

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package and the scope of work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **November 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-008, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than December 4, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions regarding CUC-RFP-13-008 must be submitted in writing no later than **November 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Nation

Lights in lower Manhattan, misery in outer regions

NEW YORK (AP)—The lights were back on Saturday in lower Manhattan, prompting screams of sweet relief from residents who had been plunged into darkness for nearly five days by Superstorm Sandy. But that joy contrasted with deepening resentment in the city's outer boroughs and suburbs over a continued lack of power and maddening gas shortages.

Adding to the misery of those without power, heat or gasoline were dipping temperatures. Mayor Michael Bloomberg urged older residents without heat to move to shelters and said 25,000 blankets were being distributed across the city.

"We're New Yorkers, and we're going to get through it," the mayor said. "But I don't want anyone to think we're out of the woods."

Bloomberg also said that resolving gas shortages could take days. Lines snaked around gas stations for many blocks all over the stricken region, including northern New Jersey, where Gov. Chris Christie imposed rationing that recalled the worst days of fuel shortages of the 1970s.

Perhaps nowhere was the scene more confused than at a refueling station in Brooklyn, where the National Guard gave out free gas—an effort to alleviate the situation. There, a mass of honking cars, desperate drivers and people on foot, carrying containers from empty bleach bottles to five-gallon Poland Spring water jugs, was just the latest testament to the misery unleashed by Sandy.

"It's chaos; it's pandemonium out here," said Chris Damon, who had been waiting for 3 1/2 hours at the site and had circled the block five times. "It seems like nobody has any answers."

Added Damon: "I feel like a victim of Hurricane Katrina. I never thought it could happen here in New York, but it's happened." Damon, 42, had already been displaced to Brooklyn from his home in Queens, where he still lacked power, as did millions outside Manhattan—from Staten Island, the hardest-hit borough, to Westchester County and other suburban areas.

Domingo Isasi, waiting in a gas line on Staten Island, minced no words about the divide he perceived between Manhattan and the outer boroughs.

"The priorities are showing, simply by the fact that Manhattan got their power back," he said, adding that Staten Islanders are used to being lower on the list. "We're the bastard kids who keep getting slapped in the head and told to shut up," he said.

At a gas giveaway station in Queens, the scene was calmer but not happier. More than 400 cars stretched for more than a dozen blocks, with one tanker filling cars one at a time. A police car pulled alongside a car about 250th in line, and officers told the driver they hoped there would still be gas by the time he got there.

The 5,000-gallon trucks from the Defense Department had been dispatched to five locations around the New York City metropolitan area. "Do not panic. I know there is anxiety about fuel," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

GOP pursues last chances to upend Senate Dems

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans vigorously pursued their last, longshot chances for taking control of the Senate—Pennsylvania topped their list—as Democrats remained cautiously optimistic that they'd retain their narrow majority after Tuesday's suspense-filled elections.

In the final days of a caustic campaign marked by negative ads, more than $1 billion in spending and the direct impact of a close White House race between President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, Democrats who were once considered a sure-fire bet to lose the Senate were upbeat about flipping Republican seats in Maine and Massachusetts and holding most of the 23 seats they're defending this year.

GOP candidates' statements on rape and abortion proved to be self-inflicted political wounds that could cost the party Indiana and undermined its chances of taking down a vulnerable Democrat in Missouri. Incumbent Democrats considered in jeopardy at the start of the election cycle managed to counter a barrage of outside spending and were on track to keep their seats in Michigan and Florida.

Democrats hold a 53-47 Senate edge but Republicans are defending only 10 seats Tuesday. Retirements in 10 states proved the most vexing for both parties.

Democrats were counting on holding the open seat in Hawaii, were unsure whether former Sen. Bob Kerrey's late surge would work in Nebraska and considered Virginia, Wisconsin and North Dakota toss-ups. New Mexico leaned Democratic but was a bit uncertain after the national parties left the two candidates—Democratic Rep. Martin Heinrich and former GOP Rep. Heather Wilson—to fend for themselves.

Among the GOP open seats, Republicans had written off Maine, chalked up Texas and warily but confidently counted Arizona.

Navy removes ship's command after boozy port visit

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The commander and top officers of a San Diego-based Navy frigate have been relieved of duty after a rowdy, booze-fueled port visit to Vladivostok, Russia.

Cmdr. Joseph E. Darlak, skipper of the USS Vandegrift, was removed Friday by Capt. John L. Schultz after an investigation "due to loss of confidence after demonstrating poor leadership and failure to ensure the proper conduct of his wardroom officers" during the three-day September stop, the Navy said in a statement.

Executive officer Lt. Cmdr. Ivan A. Jimenez and the ship's chief engineer and operations officer were also relieved "for personal conduct involving use of alcohol and not adhering to established liberty policies," the statement said.

The names of the two lower-ranked officers were not released because their positions are not considered public under Navy policy, and Navy officials did not give specifics on the misbehavior of any of the officers.

In a post on the official Facebook page of the Navy's 7th Fleet, the commander celebrated the visit as it began on Sept. 20.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to visit Vladivostok and experience all the city has to offer," Darlak said in the post. "Our sailors are especially looking forward to making new friends."

The officers were relieved during a port visit in Guam, and they'll be temporarily reassigned in San Diego pending more possible administrative actions, the Navy Times reported.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-003

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-13-003
GATE VALVE & FIRE HYDRANT REPLACEMENT KOBLERVILLE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement in Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The work consists of excavation & removal of existing gate valves and installation of new 6-inch and 8-inch gate valve and fire hydrant assemblies connected to a 6-inch or 8-inch main waterline. Payment is only for the item as completely installed and accepted by the CUC. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The Bidding Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM** (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Koblerville, Saipan** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 14, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 29, 2012** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-004

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-004
Navy Hill Waterline and Pressure Improvement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Navy Hill Waterline and Pressure Improvement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The work consists of installation of new waterlines, cut and cap and tapping to existing waterlines on Gloria Drive, Ocean View Drive, Isla Drive and Puetto St. Installation of new PRVs, gate valves, and construction of new booster pump station. The work is also inclusive of installation of new water lateral lines, reconnection of all existing water meters, asphalt paving restoration, etc. The work shall be done without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bidding Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 30, 2012 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-13-004, Navy Hill Waterline and Pressure Improvement Project** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 20, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price and Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 7, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – christie.sablan@cucgov.org..

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

US MILITARY CONTRACTING FORUM II

Opportunities for the Marianas

November 16th, 2012 - 8:00am - 5:00pm • Tinian Dynasty Hotel
Hosted by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

RDML Tilghman D. Payne
US Defense Representative Micronesia
Commander US Naval Forces Marianas
Commander Joint Region Marianas

COL. L Scott Loch
Commander Marine Corps Activity - Guam

LT. COL. Aisha Bakkar
Public Affairs Officer
Marine Corps Activity - Guam

CAPT. John V. Heckmann Jr.
Commanding Officer NAVFAC Marianas

Major Wanda M. McDonald
Commander, 36th Contracting Squadron,
Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

Mr. Felix J. Leon
Deputy Chief
Defense Logistics Agency - Troop Support

Mr. Albert Sampson
Small Business Advisor NAVFAC Marianas

Mrs. Brandy M. Untalan
Customer Service Director
GSA, Federal Acquisition Service, Asia Pacific Region

Mr. Boris Hertslet
Program Manager, Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Mr. Casey Jeszenka
Network Director, Pacific Islands
Small Business Development Center

Mr. Tony Barcinas
Business Program Specialist, USDA-Rural Development

Ms. Cindy Aldan
Public Information Officer
CNMI - Military Integration Management Committee

Mr. Christopher J. Genera
Special Agent - Naval Criminal Investigative
Service Residence Agency Marianas

Register online at www.TinianChamber.com

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce's US Military Contracting Forum II will be held on November 16th, 2012. Registration for the event is $35. Forum begins at 8AM (registration), 9AM (first speaker) and ends at 5:00PM.

Participants can avail of a special forum hotel rate ($69+10%) at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel (670)328-2233 and special forum Saipan/Tinian flight rate of ($20) via Star Marianas Air (670)433-9996. **FORUM SPONSORSHIP is also still available - contact phil@shermanpacific.com for more information.**

SPONSORS:

KANOA RESORT SAIPAN
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions :

Position (1) SOUS CHEF
Duties: Supervises and coordinates activities of COOKS and other workers engaged in preparing and cooking stuff. Observes workers engaged in preparing, portioning and garnishing foods to ensure that methods of cooking and garnishing foods to ensure that methods of cooking and garnishing and sizes of portions are prescribed. Gives instructions to cooking personnel in fine points of cooking. Cooks and carves meats and prepare dishes, such as sauces, during rush periods and for banquet and other social functions. Assumes responsibility for kitchen in absence of Executive Chef.

Qualifications: Ability to direct and participate in the preparation and cooking of food. Must be able to work variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends. Five (5) years work experience as a Sous Chef is required and preferably in the hospitality industry.

Position (1) GUEST SERVICE AGENT
Duties: Greets, registers and assigns rooms to guest. Issues room key and escort instructions to Bellhop/Bellman. Date stamps, sorts and racks incoming mail and messages. Transmit and receives messages, using telephone or telephone switchboard. Answers inquiries pertaining to hotel services, registrations of guests, and shopping, dinning, entertainment and travel directions. Keeps records of room availability and guests accounts manually or using computer. Computes bills, collects payment and make changes for guest. Makes and confirms reservations. May post charges, such as room, food, liquor or telephone to ledger, manually or using computer. May make restaurant, transportation or entertainment reservation and arrange for tours. May deposit guests valuables in hotel safe or safe deposit box. Responsible in providing guest fast, friendly and efficient service.

Qualifications: Must have knowledge in Microsoft Office Applications and Fidelio System. Must have outstanding ability to perform several tasks at once. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays. Must have strong customer service and interpersonal skills. Frequent standing and walking on the job is required. Must have at least 2 years work experience as guest service and/or reservation agent. Must be of high school graduate or equivalent. Must have knowledge in foreign language and be able to speak, read and write in Japanese language or in Chinese language.

Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than November 10, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is located next to Saipan World Resort
Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

World

Syrian tanks enter demilitarized Israeli frontier

BEIRUT (AP)—Three Syrian tanks entered the demilitarized zone in the Golan Heights on Saturday, Israel said, raising concerns violence from Syria's civil war could heat up a long-quiet frontier that has not seen such an incursion in nearly 40 years.

Israel complained to U.N. peacekeepers present in the area, a relatively low-key response that suggested it did not see the Syrian armor as an immediate threat. But the entry marks the most serious spillover of Syria's turmoil to date at the frontier, where stray ordnance has exploded on the Israeli side in the past.

Neighboring countries are dealing with a variety of incidents linked to the conflict—Turkey exchanged artillery fire with Syria for a week last month, while Jordan has seen several shootings at the border and clashes linked to the uprising against President Bashar Assad have broken out in Lebanon.

Some in Israel worry that that if Assad goes, the country could fall into the hands of Islamic extremists or descend into sectarian warfare that would destabilizing the region. Islamic fighters—some from abroad—are increasingly taking part in key engagements alongside the rebels.

Inside Syria on Saturday for example, Islamic militants took part in a dawn assault on a strategic airbase in the north of the country. The attack, reported by activists, aimed to disrupt strikes by government warplanes and helicopters that are pounding rebel-held towns.

Anti-regime activist group The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the attack on the Taftanaz air base continued into the evening, although Syria's state-run SANA news agency said the fighting was over and government troops had repelled a "terrorist attack." The government considers the rebels terrorists and pawns in a foreign plot to destroy the country.

Fighters from Jabhat al-Nusra, an al-Qaida-inspired Islamic militant group made up of foreign jihadis, had joined in the assault, said the Observatory, which relies on reports from activists on the ground. Al-Nusra fighters, who are considered among the most experienced and disciplined among the forces fighting to topple Assad, have led attacks on other airbases in the north in recent months.

The Taftanaz base mainly houses military helicopters, near the main highway between the capital Damascus and the northern city of Aleppo—where rebels and the military have been battling for control for months.

Online activist videos claim to show the battle, with rebels firing rockets and mortars, and smoke rising over buildings and an airstrip area. An activist speaking in the video identifies it as an attack by rebels and Jabhat al-Nusra on the base. The videos appear genuine and are consistent with other Associated Press reporting in the area.

Also on Saturday, war planes hit targets in the rebellious Damascus suburbs, killing at least 10 people and wounding dozens of others, the Observatory said. Fighter jets also bombed areas around the strategic northern city of Maaret al-Numan on a key supply route from Damascus to Aleppo, the country's commercial hub. Rebels have been using Maaret al-Numan as a base to disrupt government supplies to Aleppo.

The violence comes a day before the start of a key international conference in Qatar at which the United States and its allies aim to reorganize the opposition's political leadership and unite their ranks. The leadership-in-exile has been widely seen as ineffective and out of touch with rebel fighters on the ground.

Activists say more than 36,000 people have been killed during Syria's 19-month-old conflict, which began in March last year as a largely peaceful uprising but has transformed into a brutal civil war.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bomber kills 6 people in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A Taliban suicide bomber blew himself up near a vehicle carrying the regional head of a government-allied militia in northwest Pakistan on Saturday, killing him and five others, police and the militant group said. Senior police officer Akhtar Hayyat said several people were also wounded in the blast near a gas station in the district of Buner in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He said Fateh Khan, the head of the local anti-Taliban militia, was killed along with three guards and two passers-by. Khan was also a prominent leader of the secular Awami National Party, which rules the coalition government in the province, and which has angered the Taliban by supporting several military offensives in tribal districts and in the towns.

Strong quake shakes Philippines, but no injuries

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A strong earthquake rattled the southern Philippine island of Mindanao early Saturday, but there were no reports of any injuries or damage and no tsunami warnings were issued. The quake, which hit at 2:17 a.m., had a magnitude of 6.4, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology measured the magnitude at 6.5. The institute said the quake's epicenter was 22 kilometers (13 miles) northeast of southern Tandag city, and 832 kilometers (517 miles) southeast of Manila, the capital. It hit at a depth of 78 kilometers (48 miles).

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

ACCOUNTANT

BA in Accounting and a minimum of 3 years experience is required, including preparation of financial statements, processing accounts receivables & payables and other general accounting procedures. Must possess work-related skills, have knowledge & experience in purchasing, inventory control and bank reconciliation. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Outlook and ACCPAC/Sage or similar accounting system.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing or a minimum of 3 years work related experience required. Preferably with F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation experience. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Nihonngo or Korean language will be advantage. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. A valid driver's license is required along with a clean driving record. Availability to work on evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by November 15, 2012. Applications may also be sent to:info@dqsaipan.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

Life & Style

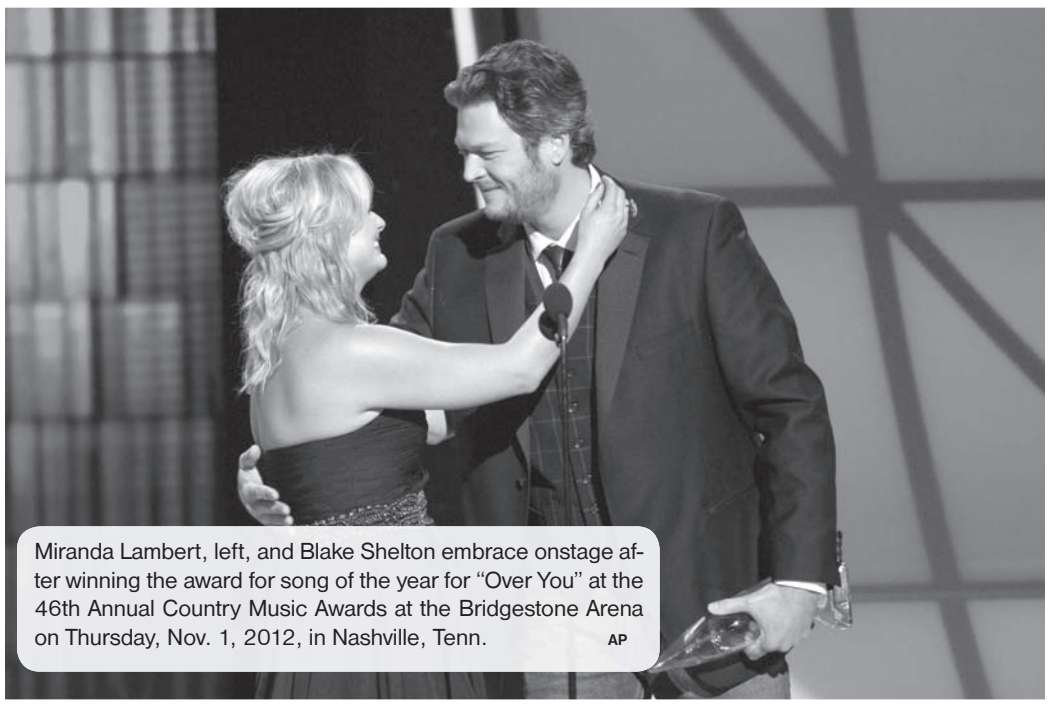
Blake Shelton pulls off surprise win at CMAs

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Winning the Country Music Association Awards' entertainer of the year is a top honor and always counted as a career high point. But for Blake Shelton it wasn't even the most memorable moment of an amazing Thursday night.

"The Voice" star took home three trophies, including his third straight male vocalist victory, but nothing compared to sharing song of the year with wife Miranda Lambert. The pair wrote "Over You," about the death of Shelton's brother Richie in a car wreck 15 years ago. He said that trophy will always have a special place in their Oklahoma home.

"For me as a songwriter that is as personal as I can get," Shelton said. "So that songwriter award, song of the year award, it will have its own shelf. It will have spotlights on it and an alarm and everything. Trip wires and there will be a land mine if you walk towards it. It is a real big deal to Miranda and I."

Shelton's entertainer win was the biggest surprise of a night full of them. Even he couldn't believe he'd won the award in a field that included Taylor Swift, Jason Aldean, Kenny Chesney and Brad Paisley.



Miranda Lambert, left, and Blake Shelton embrace onstage after winning the award for song of the year for "Over You" at the 46th Annual Country Music Awards at the Bridgestone Arena on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn. AP

Document about Titanic safety fears up for sale

LONDON (AP)—A British safety official who inspected Titanic before its maiden voyage thought it should have more lifeboats, according to his private notes, which are being offered for sale this month.

However, Capt. Maurice Clarke, a Board of Trade safety and emigration officer, didn't express that belief when he testified at the official British inquiry into the ship's sinking. He also was not asked then whether he thought Titanic carried an adequate number of lifeboats.

There is no record of Clarke ever expressing his view publicly, auctioneer Andrew Aldridge said Friday.

The U.S. Senate's inquiry concluded that 2,223 people were aboard the Titanic but there was room for fewer than 1,200 in its lifeboats. The ship had plenty of lifebelts for everyone but it sank in frigid water on the night of April 14-15, 1912, and only 706 people aboard survived.

Henry Aldridge & Son auctioneers are offering 70 pages of Clarke's private papers at a sale on Nov. 24 in Devizes, England. It's the last of a series of sales marking the centennial of the ship's sinking.

Clarke's notes indicate he was rebuffed by the White Star Line and he believed he had no legal grounds to require more lifeboats. In his notes, Clarke wrote "I suggest 50 percent more."

Air New Zealand finds magic in hobbit safety video

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Perhaps hairy-footed hobbits can teach us all something about safety.

Most regular travelers pay little attention to those snooze-inducing inflight safety videos. But Air New Zealand has found some magic by celebrating the upcoming premiere of the first in the "Hobbit" movie trilogy.

The airline's four-minute safety video featuring the character Gollum and film director Peter Jackson got more than 2 million hits on YouTube within a day of being posted Thursday. The carrier calls itself "the airline of Middle-earth" and cabin staff appear in the clip as film characters.

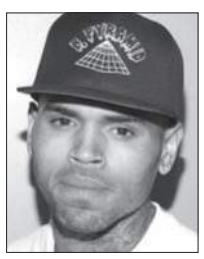
The hobbits themselves would be proud. After all, author J.R.R. Tolkien created the mythical creatures as risk-averse.

Two of the author's great-grandsons even make cameos. Royd Tolkien appears wearing prosthetic feet.

Big and hairy, of course.

Chris Brown to stay on supervised probation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Thursday ordered Chris Brown to remain on supervised probation and make another court appearance after he completes an overseas tour.



Brown

Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg did not address questions raised at a previous hearing about whether the R&B singer had completed the terms of his community labor sentence.

A prosecutor said a report filed for Thursday's hearing did not add additional details about Brown's service as previously requested by the court. Instead, it included the same spreadsheet of Brown's hours that Schnegg called "somewhat cryptic" at a September hearing.

Brown remains on supervised probation for felony assault for an attack on Rihanna in 2009.

He is scheduled to begin a tour that spans several countries in Europe and South Africa on Nov. 14.

Brown "appears to be making a sincere effort to comply with terms and conditions of probation," a probation officer wrote in a report prepared for Thursday's hearing. The report recommended that Brown remain on probation under the same conditions he has abided by since pleading guilty to the attack on the eve of the Grammy awards.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Judge ends case against Britney Spears' parents

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' former confidante and self-professed manager failed to prove his libel and breach-of-contract claims against the singer's parents and her caretakers, a judge who dismissed the case mid-trial ruled Thursday. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Suzanne Bruguera said an attorney for Sam Lutfi hadn't proven any of his allegations in the case that centered on events before the singer's public meltdown more than four years ago. Lutfi's side rested its case Tuesday, but Bruguera agreed with arguments by attorneys for Spears' father and her conservators that there wasn't sufficient evidence to send the claims to a jury. Lutfi had sued Lynne Spears for libel and the singer's father, Jamie, for allegedly hitting him at the singer's mansion in an incident shortly before Jamie Spears and others were granted control over the singer's life.

Heidi Klum to make this year's EMA's super sexy

LONDON (AP)—Supermodel Heidi Klum promises to bring a "super-sexy" feel to the 2012 MTV European Music Awards when she hosts the show in Germany on Nov. 11. The "Project Runway" star says she will be dressed head-to-toe in Versace for the event in Frankfurt, but she may need a last minute costume fitting as she reacquaints herself with the local cuisine.

"I'm probably going to gain a few pounds," she joked. "I always eat too much schnitzel." The German star's appearance on the show will see her follow in the footsteps of Katy Perry, Eva Longoria and Selena Gomez. Taylor Swift and Rhianna lead this year's nominations with six and five nods respectively, and featured performances include Alicia Keys, The Killers, Pitbull and Psy.

21 animated features vying for Oscar nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Brave," ''Wreck-It Ralph" and "Rise of the Guardians" are among the animated features angling for an Oscar nomination. The motion picture academy said Friday that 21 films have been submitted for consideration in the Academy Awards' animated feature category. "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax," ''Frankenweenie," ''Ice Age Continental Drift" and "ParaNorman" are among the high-profile movies vying for one of five nominations.

Earphones may be best way to handle moaning co-worker

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I work in a cubicle in close proximity to my co-workers. I can't help but hear everything. A co-worker who sits next to me is driving me crazy. She spells her name wrong to customers every day, 20 times a day. She also makes seductive moans during the day. I almost want to peek over the cubicle to see what she's doing.

When I have mentioned to her that perhaps she must spell her name so often to customers because she's spelling it wrong in the first place, her retort is, "No, I don't!" Everyone in the office can hear her, too. They think it's funny.

Abby, she's making me crazy. Should I record her for a few hours and play it back? Unless I do, she won't believe she does it. By the end of the week, I can hardly speak to her. Please help.

TORTURED IN ORANGE, CALIF.

DEAR TORTURED: Although your co-worker may seem to spell her name wrong to you, there are variations on the spelling of many names (i.e., Jeannie-Jeanne, Shari-Sherry-Cheri, Brian-Bryan, Steven-Stephen). The spelling of someone's name is usually determined by one's parents—so lighten up.

Your co-worker may be unaware that she makes these sounds. Instead of criticizing her, perhaps you should mention this to her. I don't think you need to make any recordings.

If the noise is distracting others in the office, a group of you should approach a supervisor about it. If not, then I'd recommend earphones for you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm sure I speak for hairstylists all over the country who style hair for our dearly departed. It is the last time their family will see them, so it is very important that it looks "just right." PLEASE bring us a picture of your loved one that was taken within the last few years, not one from 20 or 30 years ago. (Yes, Abby, it happens all the time.)

Also, please describe how the deceased wore their hair if the picture has a pompadour and the person has a short bob. It's really frustrating! If you would take snapshots of your loved ones occasionally, I wouldn't have to wonder what Mom looked like.

SANDY THE HAIRSTYLIST

DEAR SANDY: Obviously, this is something that families don't always consider when they are grieving. Thank you for the heads-up.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Can a man be too good to a woman? I dated this fantastic lady for four years. We made a commitment to be true to each other. She broke up with me. Her reason? She said I treated her too well.

We were good to EACH OTHER. We never had a disagreement. We went on several trips together. I love her so much. How can a person be too good to the one he loves?

BEGGING FOR ANSWERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR BEGGING: If a woman is used to abusive relationships, she may find being treated well not "exciting" enough. This usually happens when the person confuses love with feelings of anxiety and pain. Others can't resist a "challenge" and find stress-free relationships boring.

I'm sorry you are hurting, but please understand that you may have dodged a bullet. Once you accept it, you can move on.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

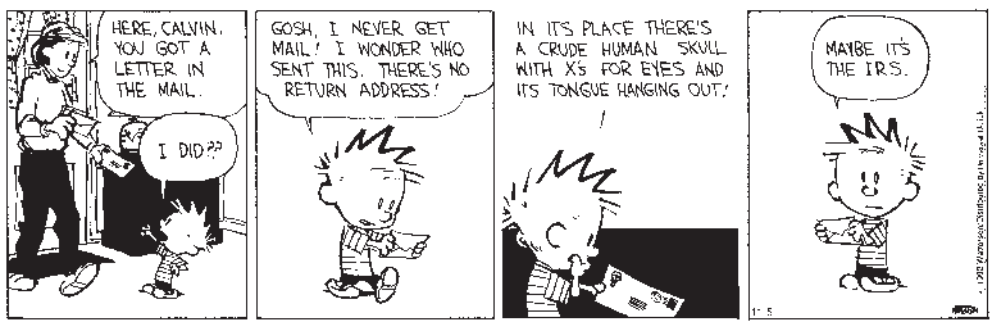
■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

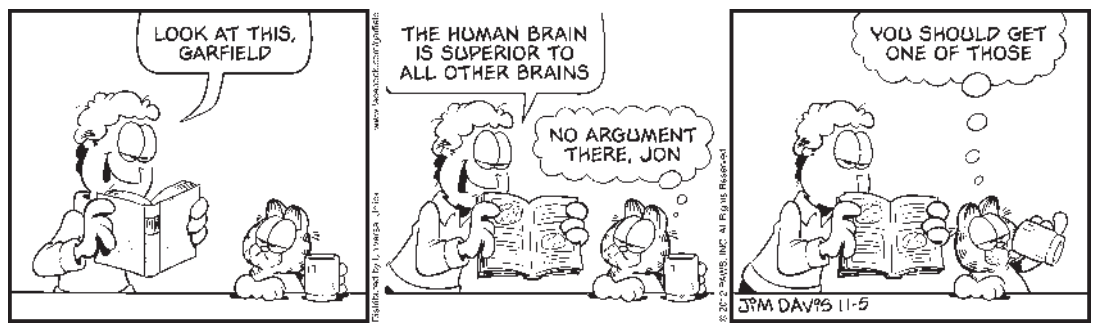
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE, CALVIN. YOU GOT A LETTER IN THE MAIL.
I DID??
GOSH, I NEVER GET MAIL! I WONDER WHO SENT THIS. THERE'S NO RETURN ADDRESS!
IN IT'S PLACE THERE'S A CRUDE HUMAN SKULL WITH X's FOR EYES AND IT'S TONGUE HANGING OUT.
MAYBE IT'S THE I.R.S.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


LOOK AT THIS, GARFIELD
THE HUMAN BRAIN IS SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHER BRAINS
NO ARGUMENT THERE, JON
YOU SHOULD GET ONE OF THOSE
JIM DAVIS 11-5

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, PERCY. DID I TELL YOU WE GOT A DOG?
I'M NOT A FAN OF THE WORD "GOT."
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
SOME OF THE 6TH GRADERS CAUGHT ME ALONE ON THE PLAYGROUND
OH NO. ARE YOU HURT?
ALAS, JUST MY SOUL.
WELL, A LITTLE "DOODLE JUMP" AND SKITTLES TROPICAL WILL FIX THAT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OBAMA IS DONE MOWING THE LAWN. NOW HE'S RAKING LEAVES.
ROMNEY IS ALMOST FINISHED CLEANING OUT OUR GARAGE. THEN HE'LL FIX THE DISPOSAL.
IT'S GREAT BEING AN UNDECIDED VOTER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Scrooge's cry
4 Astronaut Grissom
7 Indiana politico Bayh
11 Egg
13 Fire residue
14 Predicate part
15 Thin tie with a clasp
16 Shelter, at sea
17 Corp. bigwig
18 Honey bunch?
20 Rhett's shocking word
22 Fresh
24 Short-coming
28 Custodian
32 Broad-casting
33 PC picture
34 Set of tools and parts
36 Singer Campbell
37 Naval prisons
39 Own
41 Rachma-ninov or Prokofiev
43 — -jongg
44 Volcanic outflow
46 Luxury boat
50 Bullets and such
53 Autumn mo.
55 Entrance
56 Serve tea
57 Pi follower
58 Napo-leon's exile site
59 Nervous
60 Ever-green type
61 Plaything

DOWN
1 Goes up and down
2 Acknowl-edge
3 Hawaiian dance
4 Guy's partner
5 Second-hand
6 Bundle of wheat
7 1990s Burt Reynolds sitcom
8 Annoy
9 Exist
10 Peacock network
12 Trumpet-shaped flower
19 Encoun-tered
21 Cow's call
23 Stir-fry pan
25 Hay bundle
26 False-hoods
27 Sea eagles
28 Triangular sails
29 Land measure
30 Black (Fr.)
31 Tear
35 Male cat
38 Caribbean, for one
40 Express
42 Tusk material
45 Liniment target
47 Stallion, as a child
48 Vagrant
49 Salver
50 Gorilla
51 Chic, in the '60s
52 Coffee holder
54 AAA job

Solution time: 24 mins.

	S	T	A	I	D		S	O	I	L	S	
S	T	U	R	D	Y		U	B	O	A	T	S
W	O	N	T	O	N		B	O	N	B	O	N
A	N	D		L	E	V	E	E		I	L	O
M	E	R	E		S	O	D		F	L	E	W
P	R	A	N	K		L	I	D	L	E	S	S
			V	I	M		T	O	F			
C	A	L	O	M	E	L		C	A	N	S	T
O	B	E	Y		L	A	M		S	E	M	I
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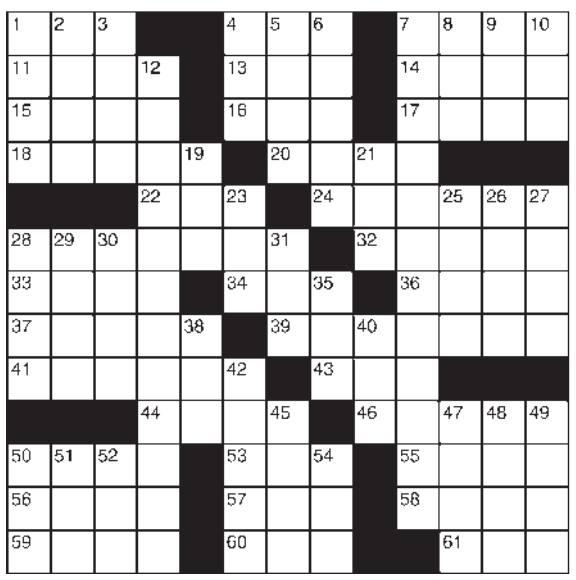
D	O	N	J	O	N		I	O	N	D	O	N
S	A	T	O	R	I		T	W	E	N	T	Y
	D	O	G	I	E		S	L	O	T	H	

Saturday's answer 11-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Jonas, 25; Tatum O'Neal, 49; Bryan Adams, 53; Art Garfunkel, 71.

Happy Birthday: Put creativity and effort into your domestic life. Make a move or fix up your digs. Encourage harmony in your home and with the people you love most. Attitude will determine what you achieve and how well you are received. Change is within reach if you quickly take care of pending legal and financial matters. Your numbers are 4, 9, 13, 25, 29, 33, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Getting involved in activities or events that interest you will broaden your plans for future development. Love is in the stars. Enhancing the relationship you are in or looking for love at networking or community events will be fruitful. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't allow personal issues to interfere with your productivity. Focus on what's expected of you. Don't lose sight of the long-term effects you will have on those you work with if you don't pull your weight. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Get involved in an organization or an event that brings you in contact with interesting people who share similar goals. Think outside the box and contribute your ideas in order to reach a much larger audience or goal. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Older and younger people may cause problems, but if you set rules and timelines to be met, you will keep everyone moving along and accomplish what you set out to do. Consistency coupled with creativity will bring good results. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't worry too much about what others do, say or think. You can expect to feel stifled at home and in your personal life if you cannot find a way to step away from your responsibilities and enjoy socializing with friends. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put pressure where needed in order to reach your goals. Don't put up with anyone who is irresponsible or overreacting to a situation that needs to be dealt with swiftly. Excess is the enemy, so keep your life and what you do simple and manageable. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You cannot control every situation you face, but you can opt to say "no" to anyone who puts you in an awkward situation. Communication, travel and expanding your knowledge and interests will lead to an interesting connection and proposal. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a serious look at where you are personally and professionally and make a decision that will help push you closer to your goals. Look for an unusual way to market or develop an idea you have. Discipline will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make improvements at home that will help ease your stress and improve your lifestyle. Don't let your temper be what stands between you and someone or something you need in order to excel. Compromise will be necessary. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Discuss issues you have with partners, colleagues or someone who has something unique to contribute to your plans. Advancement will be yours if you show your strengths and your ability to work without supervision. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't judge others, or you will end up being judged. It's important to show discipline, but at the same time, enjoy what's being offered. A commitment or contract will lead to prospects that will provide you with additional perks. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Calm down and enjoy life. Taking on too much or being excessive in any way will limit what you are capable of obtaining. An imaginative plan coupled with a little determination will result in greater cooperation and good results. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, creative and serious. You are an explorer.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7		5			
		4			1	8		
	5		4	2			7	
1	7			9		6		2
		9				1		
4		2		8			9	5
	9			7	4		1	
		6	3			5		
			6		2			

Difficulty Level ★ 11/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	5	4	1	3	6	7	2
4	3	7	2	5	6	9	8	1
6	1	2	9	8	7	4	5	3
2	7	9	8	6	1	3	4	5
3	4	8	5	7	9	2	1	6
1	5	6	3	4	2	8	9	7
5	9	3	1	2	8	7	6	4
8	6	1	7	3	4	5	2	9
7	2	4	6	9	5	1	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REMEMBERING THE 2012 OLYMPICS **Solution: 11 letters**

O	T	B	C	F	N	I	A	S	U	S	Y	O	J	G
L	S	A	E	S	A	N	C	H	E	Z	R	O	M	A
Y	E	C	T	N	N	M	N	O	D	N	O	L	A	L
M	T	K	A	H	A	A	O	P	E	B	T	T	H	F
P	S	S	I	R	L	I	F	U	O	T	C	M	S	R
I	A	T	W	S	P	E	N	L	S	I	I	U	I	A
C	F	R	A	I	L	I	T	S	D	A	V	I	D	S
H	R	O	I	I	M	A	S	E	L	E	A	Ⓓ	U	E
A	A	K	X	S	F	M	D	T	S	I	Ⓞ	O	R	R
M	N	E	N	E	R	I	I	E	O	Ⓞ	E	P	M	E
P	K	Z	I	L	O	O	N	N	Ⓜ	R	M	M	A	E
I	L	N	M	D	L	O	G	I	G	D	I	V	E	R
O	I	O	U	R	E	V	L	I	S	S	T	U	T	A
N	N	R	W	U	C	H	R	I	S	H	O	Y	S	C
S	N	B	S	H	E	L	L	Y	A	N	N	E	W	S

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Last Saturday's Answer: Moon River

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Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Bldg. 1, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Nets beat Raptors in Brooklyn debut

NEW YORK (AP)—The chant was 55 years in the making, delayed a couple days by disaster, and delivered by a sold-out crowd that wasn't missing this party no matter what it took to get there.

"Brook-lyn! Brook-lyn!"

Those were the lyrics of a rocking return to major pro sports.

"That gave me jitters, man. Chills," guard Joe Johnson said. "I know that these fans want the best for this team. All they want from us is to work hard and give them a show."

Brook Lopez scored 27 points, Deron Williams added 19 points and nine assists, and the Nets beat the Toronto Raptors 107-100 on Saturday night in the first game at Barclays Center.

A crowd of 17,732 that included entertainers Jay-Z, a part-owner, and wife Beyonce chanted the borough's name a few times during the game and loudly at the end, celebrating the name on the front of the shirt much more than the back.

And with good reason. Brooklyn hasn't had a team to cheer since the Dodgers left for Los Angeles in 1957.

Nets coach Avery Johnson said there was so much that was special about the game, which came two nights after their scheduled opener that was postponed because travel around the city was wrecked by Superstorm Sandy.

"Let's just start with the fact that we're in Brooklyn now and it's a big difference," Johnson said. "You saw the crowd tonight, even under the circumstances. Not only did we have a sellout, they were into the game."

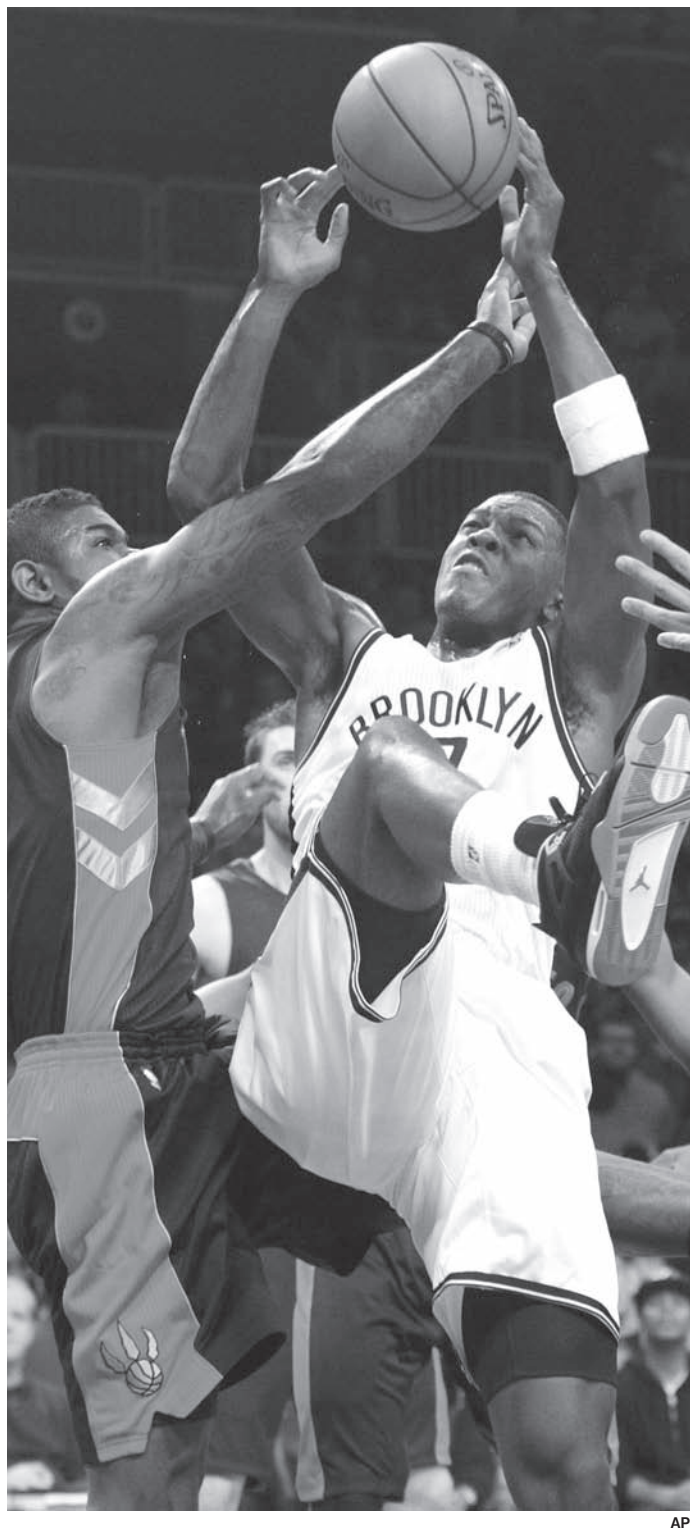
C.J. Watson finished with 15 points and Joe Johnson had 14 for the Nets, who needed a home as badly as Brooklyn needs a team, and Avery Johnson said it's close to a perfect match.

Kyle Lowry had 28 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Raptors, who fell to 0-2. DeMar DeRozan added 25 points.

"We've had two games in which we've been in the same situation, playing really well at times and then we fall behind. But we've fought hard against Indiana and the Brooklyn Nets, which are going to be two of the best teams in the Eastern Conference. That gives us a lot of confidence," guard Jose Calderon said.

The Nets pulled it out after Toronto got within two with 1:17 left, an uplifting end to a difficult week for the city and the franchise.

They were scheduled to open Thursday against the Knicks, but that was postponed at the request of Mayor Michael Bloomberg because travel to Barclays Center would have been difficult and perhaps dangerous with so much of the city's mass-transit system not operating.



AP

Brooklyn Nets' Joe Johnson (7) and Toronto Raptors' Amir Johnson, left, fight for control of the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012, in New York.

The Nets, still practicing in East Rutherford, N.J. this season, were forced to move their midweek workouts to Barclays Center after their practice center was flooded and lost power. Some team members were forced into hotels, and Williams said his power was only restored Friday.

"It was good to finally be out here with the guys because we've been waiting since the last game of last season for this and just to have it pushed back, it was a little rough for us," Lopez said. "Like I said, there are some more important things, but we were definitely anxious these last few days."

The Manhattan hotel where the Raptors planned to stay lost power, so the team stayed in Brooklyn, instead.

The Nets lined up buses to run from Manhattan on Saturday, and fans got a boost when some subways began running from Manhattan. The storm's effects were evident at the Atlantic Avenue-Barclays Center transit complex—water damage on the floor, escalators shut off—but there was a huge crowd in the plaza outside the arena before the game and the building appeared mostly full long before a lively pregame ceremony.

Commissioner David Stern turned boos into cheers when he announced it was honor "welcome Brooklyn, USA to the NBA." Former Brooklyn Dodgers Ralph Branca, and Joe Pignatano, along with Gil Hodges, Jr., whose father was a star with the beloved Dodgers before they moved to Los Angeles, exchanged jerseys with some Nets players.

Heat 119, Nuggets 116

In Miami, Ray Allen had a four-point play with 6.7 seconds left that put Miami ahead for good, and Chris Bosh scored 40 points for the Heat.

LeBron James finished with 20 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds, and Allen scored 23 for Miami (2-1), which escaped when Danilo Gallinari's 3-point try with 2 seconds left bounced off the rim.

Kenneth Faried and Andre Iguodala each scored 22 for Denver, which fell to 0-3. Andre Miller made his first eight shots and finished with 17 for the Nuggets, who also got 16 points from JaVale McGee and outrebounded Miami 47-32.

Trail Blazers 95, Rockets 85, OT

In Houston, rookie Damian Lillard scored 20 points, including eight in overtime, and the Trail Blazers slowed down James Harden.

Lillard and Nicolas Batum each made a 3 to help Portland open an 87-81 lead in the extra session. Harden then made a pair of free throws before Lillard converted a reverse layup. His second 3 of overtime pushed Portland's lead to 93-85 with 1:25 remaining.

Harden led the Rockets with 24 points in his home debut, but he wasn't as dominant as he was in the first two games. He scored 37 and a career-high 45 points in his first two games after he was acquired in a deal with Oklahoma City last week.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 27 points and 11 rebounds for the Trail Blazers.

Spurs 110, Jazz 100

In San Antonio, Tony Parker had 24 points and 10 assists to lift the Spurs to the victory.

Tim Duncan added 19 points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio (3-0). Danny Green had 21 points and Kawhi Leonard 13.

Duncan and Parker combined to score seven points in the final 4 minutes to preserve the victory and give the Spurs their best start since the 2007-2008 season.

Mo Williams scored 29 points for Utah (1-2), leading the team's rally in the third quarter. Paul Millsap added 17 points, Al Jefferson had 16 and Gordon Hayward 15.

Mavericks 126, Bobcats 99

In Dallas, O.J. Mayo scored 30 points and the Mavericks remained unbeaten against the Bobcats.

Mayo made a career-high seven 3-pointers, including one that put the Mavericks ahead for good late in the second quarter and another that capped a 24-8 run that made it 76-61 in the third.

Dallas improved to 16-0 all-time against Charlotte.

Chris Kaman made his Mavericks debut as a reserve, but the spark off the bench came from Vince Carter. The 14-year veteran got the crowd going with a powerful dunk and did it again later with a spectacular blocked shot.

Ramon Sessions led Charlotte with 22 points.

Hornets 89, Bulls 82

In Chicago, Greivis Vasquez scored 18 points and the Hornets got the win with top overall draft pick Anthony Davis sidelined by a mild concussion.

Robin Lopez and Jason Smith scored 16 apiece. Ryan Anderson added 12 points and 13 rebounds, and the Hornets hit 20 of 23 free throws.

Luol Deng had 19 points and eight rebounds for Chicago. Nate Robinson scored 15 and Marco Belinelli added 13 against his former team, but the Bulls shot 33 percent.

Davis, a Chicago product, was being examined in New Orleans after taking an inadvertent elbow to the head from teammate Austin Rivers in the first half of Friday's win over Utah.

Celtics 89, Wizards 86

In Washington, Paul Pierce scored 27 points to lead the Celtics to their first victory of the season.

A night after what their coach called a "flat game," the Celtics held the Wizards to 1-for-14 shooting at the start, then were barely better at the end.

Washington's only scoring in the first 8 minutes came on Kevin Garnett's goaltending call, and Pierce hit a key 3 down the stretch to help Boston improve to 1-2.

Washington dropped to 0-2 after its home opener in front of a sellout crowd of 20,308 that occasionally included folks chanting "Let's go, Celtics!"

Pacers 106, Kings 98, 2OT

In Indianapolis, George Hill scored 18 points and Indiana used its staunch defense to close out the double-overtime win.

David West also had 18 points for the Pacers (2-1), including the clinching free throws in the second overtime, and 18 rebounds. Paul George added 16 points and 17 rebounds, and Gerald Green scored 17 points.

Marcus Thornton scored 26 for Sacramento (0-3), and DeMarcus Cousins collected 21 points and 13 rebounds.

Bucks 105, Cavaliers 102

In Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Bucks the victory.

The referees used video replay to confirm the shot left Jennings' hand with one-tenth of a second left on the clock.

Mike Dunleavy had 29 points, 12 rebounds and six assists for Milwaukee.

Kyrie Irving scored 27 points for Cleveland, tying the game with seven-tenths of a second remaining on a driving layin over Ersan Ilyasova.

Warriors 114, Clippers 110

In Los Angeles, Stephen Curry and reserve Carl Landry each scored 23 points and the Golden State Warriors stubbornly held off the pesky Los Angeles Clippers for a wire-to-wire 114-110 victory.

Klay Thompson had 17 points and eight rebounds for Golden State, helping hand the Clippers their first loss of the season. The Warriors learned several hours before the game that reserve small forward Brandon Rush, their best perimeter defender, will have to undergo season-ending surgery after tearing the ACL in his left knee during the first quarter of Friday night's 104-94 home loss to Memphis.

Hornets' Williams rips NBA's concussion policy

CHICAGO (AP)—New Orleans Hornets coach Monty Williams blasted the NBA's protocols for determining when a player can return from a concussion, a day after No. 1 draft pick Anthony Davis suffered a mild one.

Williams unloaded before Saturday's game against the Chicago Bulls, saying, "Now, they treat everybody like they have white gloves and pink drawers and it's getting old. It's just the way the league is now."

His comments came on the heels of Davis leaving Friday's win over Utah after taking an inadvertent elbow to the head from teammate Austin Rivers in the first half. A Chicago product, Davis stayed back in New Orleans to be examined and did not accompany the team on the trip.

He cannot return until he completes a series of tests to determine if he's fit to play.

"It's a man's game," Williams said. "They're treating these guys like they're 5 years old. He desperately wanted to come (to Chicago), but he couldn't make it."

Concussions and the long-term effects of repeated blows to the head have become a hot-button topic in sports the past few years, most notably in the NFL. Other leagues have also taken steps to make the games safer, but Williams apparently thinks the NBA has gone too far.

Asked what he doesn't like about the concussion policy, he said, "I'm not saying I don't like it. We've got to protect the players, but I think the players should have more say-so in how they feel. I'm sure I had four or five concussions when I played, and it didn't bother me. The NBA is doing what's necessary to protect the players, but this is not the NFL. You don't get hit in the head that much. I understand it. But as a coach, I'm a baby about it. I want my guys ready to play.

Rivera to stay with Yankees; Red Sox keep Ortiz

NEW YORK (AP)—All-time saves leader Mariano Rivera plans to pitch again for the New York Yankees next year.

Rivera told the Yankees this week that he'll return from a knee injury that sidelined him for most of the season. The closer turns 43 next month.

Rivera has 608 career saves. He tore a ligament in his right knee in early May while shagging fly balls during batting practice. Rivera vowed right away to pitch again, but recently said he wasn't sure.

Rafael Soriano earned 42 saves this year for the AL East champions while filling in for Rivera. Soriano recently opted out of the final season of his three-year contract and will likely seek a long-term deal in free agency.

In Boston, the Red Sox and designated hitter David Ortiz have agreed to a two-year deal worth $26 million that could allow one of the breakout stars of the franchise's cathartic 2004 World Series victory to retire in a Boston uniform.

A baseball official with knowledge of the negotiations said Friday night that the deal, with incentive bonuses, could bring Ortiz as much as $30 million in the 2013 and '14 seasons. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been signed.

Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said the team had nothing to announce. Ortiz's agent, Fern Cuza, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Speaking at the Celtics' home opener against the Milwaukee Bucks on Friday night, Ortiz said, ''We haven't finished it up yet.''

AP

Mariano Rivera, seen here pitching for New York in an undated file photo, told the Yankees that he'll return from a knee injury that sidelined him for most of the season.

''It's coming,'' he said as he walked back to his courtside seat at the TD Garden ''It's coming.''

But fans who had heard about the deal were already shouting their congratulations to the player beloved in Boston as ''Big Papi.'' The crowd cheered when he was shown on the scoreboard at the end of the third quarter, and he acknowledged the support by raising his left arm straight up.

One of the most popular players in Red Sox history, Ortiz now has a chance to finish his career in the city where it was rejuvenated after he was waived by the Minnesota Twins following the 2003 season. Ortiz signed with the Red Sox and became an immediate star, batting .288 with 31 homers and 101 RBIs in his first season.

But it was in 2004 that Ortiz provided some of the signature moments in Red Sox history.

After a season in which he had a .301 average, and career highs of 41 homers and 139 RBIs, Ortiz batted .545 in the first-round series against the Angels. With the Red Sox facing elimination in Game 4 of the AL championship series against the New York Yankees, Ortiz hit a game-ending homer in the 12th inning and then delivered another game-winning hit in Game 5 as Boston rallied from an 0-3 deficit to win in seven games.

Ortiz had four hits - two for extra bases - in 13 at-bats and four walks against the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series, which the Red Sox won in four games to end an 86-year title drought. In the 2007 postseason, when Boston won it all for a second time, Ortiz batted .370 with 14 walks in 14 games for an on-base percentage of .508.

An eight-time All-Star, Ortiz hit a team-record 54 homers in 2006 and was batting .318 with 23 homers and 60 RBIs this season before injuring his right Achilles tendon. He played in just one game after July 16.

Ortiz, who will turn 37 this month, is a career .285 hitter with 401 homers and 1,386 RBIs. His 343 homers in a Red Sox uniform is fifth on Boston's career list and his 1,088 RBIs is sixth in franchise history.

Ortiz was a free agent and able to discuss money with all teams at midnight. The Red Sox made him a $13.3 million qualifying offer, but the sides continued negotiating and reached an agreement a few hours later.

NYC Marathon runners fill unexpected free time

NEW YORK (AP)—Sue Johnson refuses to give New York City any more money.

She preferred to shell out for the change fee to move her flight home to Pittsburgh up by 24 hours - leaving on the day she was supposed to run the New York City Marathon.

Many of the runners who had descended on the city from all over the globe worked out their frustrations with a jog Saturday through Central Park, site of a finish line that will never be crossed. Some scrambled to rebook return flights. Others made sightseeing plans for the unexpected free time.

Whether from Europe, South America or elsewhere, their sentiment was the same. Sympathy for the victims of Superstorm Sandy. Understanding of why city officials canceled Sunday's race. But bitterness that the decision was made Friday instead of earlier in the week, before they boarded planes.

And some, like Johnson, voiced suspicions that the last-minute announcement was a ploy by city officials to lure entrants to New York so they would still spend money at local businesses.

"They get the best of both worlds," she said after wrapping up a run Saturday.

The runners had dragged their bodies through months of training, often making preparations years in advance and saving money for what costs thousands of dollars for many international entrants.

Diego Pellegrino and his wife kept their plans to stay in New York through Friday. But he had imagined biking around, shopping and eating well all week with the sense of accomplishment of completing his first marathon.

"The illusion is broken," he said.

Pellegrino will still take part in a sporting event midday Sunday: With no race to run, he'll make his first visit to Madison Square Garden for an NBA game, cheering on fellow Argentine Pablo Prigioni of the Knicks against the Philadelphia 76ers.

On a crisp, sunny Saturday, Central Park looked the part of the usual telegenic backdrop to the marathon's final miles. Other than some downed branches, the runners who chugged along the paths saw no evidence of the storm that knocked out power and flooded homes all over the metropolitan area.

A block of sidewalk just outside the park was cordoned off, stacks and stacks of boxes of orange jackets originally intended for marathon volunteers waiting to be donated to shelters. On this Saturday, runners would usually carb load at Marathon Eve Dinner. That, too, was canceled.

More New Yorkers got electricity Saturday, but frustrations mounted over gasoline shortages as refueling sites turned into traffic jams of horn-honking confusion. Gas rationing went into effect in northern New Jersey, while crowds lined up at free fuel distribution sites in New York's boroughs.

The blue and orange structure above the finish line remained up, though nobody could run under it. Barricades kept people a few yards away, creating the feel of a tourist attraction: Runners stood against them to have their photo taken with "Finish" in the background. Many wore NYC Marathon gear, souvenirs from an event that never occurred.

For all the conspiracy theories from out-of-town runners, the city will take in far less than the estimated $340 million the marathon would have brought.

Anthony King, owner of the bar Finnegans Wake along the race course on Manhattan's East Side, had the mixed feelings of a New Yorker and a local businessman. He felt for other merchants who would lose much-needed revenue, but agreed with the mayor's ultimate decision.

"We're going to miss all the excitement," he said.

Race organizer New York Road Runners has cancellation insurance but must sort out the effects on contracts with elite runners, sponsors and broadcasters. NYRR President Mary Wittenberg said Friday that for now organizers were sticking with their policy of not refunding entry fees, but it would be reviewed.

Susan Bourque and her husband kept on driving because their two children had never been to the Big Apple. They arrived at 9:30 p.m. and squeezed in visits to the Empire State Building and Times Square before heading back to New England at midday Saturday, pleasantly surprised their hotel refunded the rate with their early departure.

Francesco Caielli, Mario Di Sabato and Luciano Sala were two hours from landing in New York on Friday when they saw the news on the plane's video screens. At least their trip was smooth: A friend whose initial flight was canceled flew from their native Italy to Hong Kong then New York, determined to make the marathon.

And now there's no race.

Game on: Steelers-Giants still playing

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The New York Giants and Pittsburgh Steelers are still on for their game Sunday at MetLife Stadium as recovery efforts continue in devastated New Jersey following Superstorm Sandy.

The NFL confirmed on Saturday that the matchup is still scheduled for its 4:25 p.m. kickoff Sunday afternoon. Gov. Chris Christie did not address the game during a briefing Saturday, and a spokesman deferred questions about it to the league.

Christie and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell spoke on Friday.

The New York City Marathon, also scheduled for Sunday, has been canceled - although the New York Knicks opened their season on Friday night at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan and the Nets were playing Saturday night for the first time in their new arena in Brooklyn.

Given the gas shortage in the state—New Jersey has implemented a rationing program — and the lack of mass transit available, the Giants have urged fans to carpool. In their conversation before the weekend, Goodell was assured by Christie that the game would not divert any major resources from relief efforts.

The league will bring 100 first responders to the game to meet Goodell as well as members of the Giants before kickoff. The home team will also hold a food drive to support those affected by the storm.

''Our thoughts are still with the people who have lost so much during this past week,'' Giants co-owners John Mara and Steve Tisch said in a joint statement Friday. ''A football game by comparison is such an insignificant event, but hopefully it will bring some sense of distraction or comfort to those of our fans who have been hurt in any way by this storm.''

The Steelers altered their travel plans in light of the situation. Originally scheduled to fly in on Saturday, and stay in Jersey City, N.J., they will instead travel on Sunday morning and return to Pittsburgh right after the game.

''That's nothing compared to what those people have been going through because of the hurricane,'' Pittsburgh defensive end Brett Keisel said. ''Not having power to go to and from work? They're really fighting through it, so this is minor compared to what they're going through.''

2 Olympians to join Rota Blue Triathlon

Two Olympians have confirmed to join the 19th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon on Nov. 17.

Hirokatsu Tayama, who represented Japan in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, finishing 20th in the men's triathlon final, and Ryosuke Yamamoto, who represented Japan in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, ranking 30th in the final standings, have registered for the annual Ironman event, jointly sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan and the Rota Mayor's Office.

The triathlon features two distances: an A-type half-marathon distance, which includes a 1.5-kilometer swim, followed by a 40k rigorous biking course and a 10k run (no time limit) and the B-type Olympic distance, which includes a 2k swim, followed by a 90k biking course and topped off with a 21k run (8-hour time limit). For team competitors, there will also be triathlon of the A-type distance, again with no time limit.

"Rota is unique in the triathlon circuit, largely due to its pristine course in and out of the water," MVA community projects manager Martin Duenas said. "And of course, the people of Rota are renowned for their hospitality, so everyone is looking forward to a great event."

Pre-registration will be held on Nov. 16, from 11am to 12:30 pm at the Bay Breeze Restaurant & Bar, while the swim course inspection will be held the same day from 1 to 2pm at the East Harbor. Final registration will take place that evening from 4:30-8 pm at Rota Resort & Country Club's Sunset BBQ Tiki Tiki. The pre-race briefing for all participants will be held also that evening from 6-7:30pm.

Starting time for both distances is 6:30am at Rota's East Harbor. Wetsuits are permitted, while bike helmets are required. Registration fees are $80 for A-type course solo competitors and $70 for each member in the team division. The fee for the B-type course is $100. The entry fees include the event t-shirt, high-quality swim cap, and an invitation to the awards banquet at East Harbor. ***(MVA)***

Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic tees off Nov. 10

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan's 17th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic tees off this Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Following its tradition, proceeds from the tournament will go toward the Make-A-Wish Foundation's mission to help fulfill a life-long dream of a child with a terminal illness.

"In addition to contributing to this remarkable cause, this year's Golf Classic promises the enthusiasm and class that previous Hyatt Golf tournaments have embodied, plus a new, exciting four-person best ball format that players will surely enjoy," said Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa in a recent press release.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, right, receives the check donation for this Saturday's 17th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic from Calvo's Insurance general manager Eli Buenaventura ,

Earnings will also benefit other non-profit organizations through the event host's Hyatt Thrive corporate responsibility platform; visit www.thrive.hyatt.com for more information.

Players can enter into the event's 4-person scramble or 4-player best ball team formats. The Top 3 finishers of each category will be awarded prizes, in addition to special prizes going out to the overall "Best Gross" male and female, and the first and second runners- up in the category. Players must choose the best ball format to be eligible for the "Best Gross" category.

In the scramble, after each shot team members will decide on which of their four balls they want to play. After they choose, all of the other balls must be picked up and placed within six inches of the selected ball.

Four-person best ball rules require members of each team to play their own balls on each hole where upon completion of the hole, the lowest score among the four is recorded.

Scoring for both formats will be based on a double peoria system.

Players will be competing for an array of attractive prizes, which include various hotel stays and gift certificates and over $50,000 hole-in-one prizes.

To access registration for this year's Golf Classic, please visit saipan.regency.hyatt.com and go to the News and Events section.

Early bird registration is open to Club Elan and Club at the Hyatt members until Thursday (Nov.8) for $100.

From there, the standard rate for such members raises to $110, while all other entrants can register for $120. Registration will also be available on the day of the tournament, from 6:30am to 7:25am. Payments can be made at Hyatt Regency Saipan's front desk.

Registration also earns admittance into the dinner and awards banquet, which will be held poolside at the Hyatt starting at 6:30pm. The event has a shotgun start at 7:30am.

For more information, contact Pamela Seman at pamela.seman@hyatsaipan.com, Robin Eugenio at robin.eugenio@hyattsaipan.com, visit http://saipan.regency.hyatt.com or call (670)-234-1234 ext.26.

SONICS

From Page 28

Ezra Caro.

The Oleai Ol'Aces looked a little out of sync from the get-go and then things just fell apart for them in the second quarter, as they became careless with the ball and made a dismal effort to clear the boards. With almost everything going against the Ol'Aces, the Sonics amassed a 42-15 advantage at the half.

The Ol'Aces then showed up in the second half with Donavin Mendiola scrambling for 9 points in the third quarter. However, the Ol'Aced had already fallen too far behind, while Sonics drew 5 markers from John Paul Villanueva to bring the count to 57-34, heading into the final period.

From there, teams merely traded baskets in what was an uneventful ending.

Aranda and Villanueva coled the victors with 11 points apiece, while Mendiola tallied 17 in defeat.

In the curtain raiser, LD Prime worked out a solid 14-6 lead in the first quarter off the 6 markers of Nax Gunnacao. It then pulled away at halftime, 32-10, as Ken Quemado took the reins and added 8 points, while Carl Aldan and Lawrence Rollon also teamed up for 8 more markers.

Notably, Agape Torchbearers front man Joseph Yang was held to just two baskets in the first quarter and was shut out in the second period. LD Prime did a good job containing Yang and it paid off as no one else stepped up for Agape to fill the void.

LD Prime went for the kill after the pause and ran away with a 48-20 lead, as six different players scored in the big third-quarter push. Gunnacao and Joseph Pena delivered 4 points each in the surge.

LD Prime then called off the dogs in the fourth period, but still managed to match Agape's output.

Quemado turned in a game-high 15 points to outgun Torchbearers scoring duo Yang and Elijah Li, who finished with 6 markers apiece.

Meanwhile, LD Prime, which is on a roller-coaster ride in the regular season, will go for its second straight win when it faces the Rollers 2 today at 5:30pm.

First Game

LD Prime 59 – Quemado 15, Gunnacao 12, Aldan 10, Rollon 6, Pena 6, Esteves 4, Espinosa 4.

Agape Torchbearers 31 – E. Li 6, Yang 6, Lin 4, Chan 2, Chen 2, Gou 2, B. Li 2, Lu 2, Thuan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-6, 32-10, 48-20, 59-31.

Second Game

Sonics 71 -- Aranda 11, Villanueva 11, De Guzman 8, Tudela 8, Alegre 7, Salem 7, Cadiang 5, Del Rosario 6, Caro 4.

Oleai Ol'Aces 46 – Mendiola 17, Ichihara 10, Alfred 8, Aguilar 5, Kaipat 4, Rangamar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-11, 42-15, 57-34, 71-46.

3 ATHLETES

From Page 28

junior varsity title victory in the COPSSA league. Rastguiy and company swept Saipan Community School in the finals, 25-9, 25-13, and the diminutive player went on to take the MVP award in the girls division.

Dela Cruz also earned an MVP plum and four other awards in the Saipan Major League Baseball/Division of Youth Services' 18U Triple A Championship Youth Baseball League.

The Rockies slugger was selected regular season MVP for almost winning the rare Triple Crown in the league. He topped the league's batting race (batting average of 0.457) and runs batted in (11) and just missed one homer to complete the prestigious achievement. Though he failed to top the home run race, Dela Cruz gained two more awards after recording the most triples (2) and doubles (4) in the league.

Dela Cruz, Rastguiy, and McCullough-Stearns are now qualified for the NMASA Male Athlete and Student Athletes of the Year awards, which will be handed out during the association's annual banquet early next year.

KNIGHTS

From Page 28

which defeated Saipan Southern High School (1-6). MHS Blue had a free win in the opening set, as the Rays came in late and the former went on to secure the sweep, 25-19, 15-13.

Saving the best for last, MCS Knights (2-5) and SIS Green Geckos (4-3) had an epic battle that resulted in a validating upset for the former.

The opposing teams were evenly matched as all three sets went back and forth, and two of them extended past regulation. The Knights had a potential game-winner deep in their rival's backcourt, but were called out of bounds and SIS Green bit down with its second life and scored three pressured points to take the opening set, 26-24.

Despite the sorry loss Mt. Carmel did not give up and outlasted SIS Green in the second set, which also went into overtime, 28-26.

After a tight match in the first two sets, the deciding third set was expected to be a down to the wire and Mt. Carmel and SIS did not disappoint. Neither team seemed to come out on the losing end, before MCS took an early lead and held off SIS Green's big rally to narrowly avoid a third overtime, 15-13.

The big victory marked MCS's first real triumph after getting a forfeit win earlier in the season.

TOUR

From Page 28

pecting a turnout of between 80 and 100.

This is Tinian's first major bike race and it will also serve as a preparation event for next year's Memorial Day International Bike Race. At stake in the MTB race are $3,000 in cash prizes, raffle prizes, and two brand new mountain bikes.

Registration costs only $30 per division, $60 for the 2-person team, and $120 for the 4 person team. Entrance fees cover a free lunch and t-shirt.

Notably, there are a number of options for off-island riders who need to transport their equipment. For Saipan riders, Star Marianas Air is offering round trip packages for $49 per person and $70 for each bike. The Super Emerald is also offering a round trip boat service for $35 per person and free bike transport. The vessel will leave Saipan at 1pm on Saturday and will return at 5pm on Sunday. Bikes sent through Star Marianas will be arriving after 6pm on Saturday.

For Guam competitors, Tinian Air is offering one-way rates for $120 per person with an added $50 charge for each bike, also one-way; requirements for making a flight reservation include complete name(s), birth date(s), passport number(s), citizenship and body weight(s).

In addition, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is offering special room rates for participants for $77 per night with an added fee of $15 to transport each bike (one-way).

Registration forms can be downloaded at http://www.mediafire.com/view/?mdwkek10pacdata. Upon completion, click "submit". Then save the "PDF" file on your computer and send as an attachment to tourdetinian@gmail.com; you can also print out the form and scan the image (once you fill it out) and send it in as an attachment, accordingly.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, Star Marianas Air, The Super Emerald, IT&E, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Marpac, Pacific Trading Company, Gatrorade, Mobil, ELS Auto Shop, Pacific Islands Club, NMI Cycling Federation, and Saipan Bike Pro are sponsoring this weekend's race.

For more details about travel options, contact BAT's Dawn Sarmiento or Richard Lizardo at (670)-287-3667, (670)-433-3296 or (670)-788-3448; or email tourdetinian@gmail.com.

Interested participants can also check out the event's Facebook page listed under Tour De Tinian.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	1	0	1.000	—
New York	1	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	1	0	1.000	—
Boston	1	2	.333	1
Toronto	0	2	.000	1 1/2
Southeast Division				
Orlando	1	0	1.000	—
Miami	2	1	.667	—
Charlotte	1	1	.500	1/2
Atlanta	0	1	.000	1
Washington	0	2	.000	1 1/2
Central Division				
Milwaukee	2	0	1.000	—
Chicago	2	1	.667	1/2
Indiana	2	1	.667	1/2
Cleveland	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Detroit	0	2	.000	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	3	0	1.000	—
Dallas	2	1	.667	1
Houston	2	1	.667	1
New Orleans	2	1	.667	1
Memphis	1	1	.500	1 1/2
Northwest Division				
Minnesota	1	0	1.000	—
Portland	2	1	.667	—
Oklahoma City	1	1	.500	1/2
Utah	1	2	.333	1
Denver	0	3	.000	2
Pacific Division				
Golden State	2	1	.667	—
L.A. Clippers	2	1	.667	—
Phoenix	1	1	.500	1/2
Sacramento	0	3	.000	2
L.A. Lakers	0	3	.000	2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Competitions galore

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan offered a lot of competitions last week.

The list included a canoe race, golf tournament, indoor and beach volleyball, basketball, football, and cross country races.

The island hosted the 14th Annual Micronesian Cup in the waters off Kanoa Resort with Guam's Poksai Pink and Hong Kong United's men and mixed crews claiming the most awards in the annual event that also featured paddlers from Palau's Belau Kanu Club, Saipan's Hoe Lokahi, Poksai Yellow, Poksai White, Guahan Ifit, Guam's Tao Tao Galaide, Saipan's Marianas Pacific Paddlers, and Guam's Guatdan Tasi-Este.

In golf, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce hosted a two-man scramble format competition at Coral Ocean Point with Ralph Yumul and Mike Sablan topping the fundraiser. The duo logged a gross 65 to beat Manny Mangerero and Tars Olopai (67) and Kim Gi Yoeng and Lee Geun Ju (68). Lorraine Babauta and Sherlyn Jones won the Ladies low net categories.

Over at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Go Pro and Team Hurley ruled their respective divisions in the Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association's 2nd Kids Training Beach Volleyball Tournament.

Go Pro's Maile Aldrich, Steven Lee, Colin Ramsey, Negahr Rastguiy, and Troy Young took the U13 crown after winning over Living Like Larry in the finals. Team Hurley, which was composed of Chris Cepeda, Tommy Choi, Clay McCullough-Stearns and Kristle Ogbac, claimed the U18 title after defeating Flash in the finale.

In indoor volleyball at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, Saipan International School's White Geckos kept their unbeaten record in the MISO league after notching a pair of wins last week. Also recording victories last week were MHS Blue, MHS Yellow, Grace Christian Academy, and SIS Green.

Still in MISO, the MHS Lady Dolphins swept the regular season of both the varsity and junior varsity basketball competitions.

Also in basketball, the league-leading Sonics went undefeated in the regular season, while Mariana Resort/NMC Proa and the Rollers 2 remained in the Top 3 of the 10-team field in the U20 division.

In football, MP United retained its flawless mark in the boys U15 division of the NMIFA fall league, while Matansa and Paire kept the top spot in the girls U15 and boys U18 age groups, respectively.

In the M-League at the Oleai Sports Complex, Paire broke into the win column, while Tan Holdings, Shirley's, and MP United also pulled off separate victories last week.

At the CPA Field, Northern Marianas Athletics kicked off the first of a series of its cross country races with over 70 students competing in the opener.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Members of Hong Kong United's mixed team pose for a photo after receiving their first place prize in the long distance event of the 14th Annual Micronesian Cup during the awards banquet held at Kanoa Resort.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Poksai Pink and Yellow members pose for a photo after receiving their first place prizes in all three women's events in the 14th Annual Micronesian Cup during the awards banquet held at Kanoa Resort.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Lorraine Babauta, right, and Sherlyn Jones, second from left, accept their prizes from organizers of the 5th Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament held last week at Coral Ocean Point Resort Club.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Marianas High School's Jeralyn Castillo, left, tries to dump a pass to Rachel Abrams, right, during their game against Saipan Southern High School in the MISO varsity caging last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire's Steve McKagan, second from left, looks for a teammate to pass the ball to during their game against Korean Football Association on Saipan in the M-League last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Agape Christian School students head out to the course during the first leg of the 2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series held last week at the CPA Field.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Sonics' Jaymark De Guzman goes up for a baseline shot against the Rollers 2 defenders during their U20 game in the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymasium.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sonics sweep regular season

The Sonics' Jack Aranda pulls up for a floater against an Oleai Ol'Aces defender during their U20 game in the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The defending champions Sonics finished the regular season undefeated, while LD Prime nabbed a much-needed win in the U20 division games in the Rotary Club of Saipan's 21st Annual Youth Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics ended the round-robin elimination with a 9-0 record, following a 71-46 demolition of the Oleai Ol'Aces in the second game, and secured the top seeding in the playoffs, while the Ol'Aces dropped to an even 3-3 slate. LD Prime also routed the Agape Torchbearers, 59-40, for its third win in eight games. Agape remained winless after nine tries.

With the Sonics claiming their ninth win, they kept their distance against Marianas Resort/NMC Proa (7-1). Completing the U20 field are the Rollers 2 (7-2), Rollers 1 (3-4) Kagman (3-5), Hi-Five (3-5), and the Chalan Kanoa Saints. Kagman received a win via forfeit over the Rollers 1 last Thursday.

The league frontrunners established a healthy 20-11 lead after the first 10 minutes of Friday's late pairing after getting 6 points from Jack Aranda and a couple of baskets from Bryl Alegre and

See SONICS on Page 26

Knights nip SIS Green

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Mount Carmel School Knights' Alfonso Evangelista, right, hits the ball over Saipan International Green Geckos' Angelo Jones, left, and So Kyuk Park during their game in the MISO volleyball league last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

MISO Saipan International School's White Geckos and Grace Christian Academy continued their strong showing in the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Volleyball League, but the game of the week belonged to Mt. Carmel School.

The White Geckos steamrolled the Kagman High School Ayuyus in three quick sets, 25-15 25-9, 15-4, last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium to extend their undefeated run to seven and retain the No. 2 spot in the team standings, while KHS remained winless in seven tries

The GCA Eagles are closed behind with their 6-1 record and also recorded a sweep against MHS Yellow (3-4), 25-15, 25-12, 15-13. The Eagles are one win ahead of MHS Blue (5-2),

See KNIGHTS on Page 26

Tour De Tinian set for Nov. 11

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bikers wait for the start of the San Jose Fiesta Bike Race on Tinian early this year. Tinian will host another race this Sunday with the staging of the inaugural Tour De Tinian 100K MTB.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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The Tinian Mayor's Office and the Biker's Association of Tinian (BAT) will be holding the island's inaugural Tour De Tinian 100K Veterans Day Mountain Bike Race this Sunday.

The 100-kilometer race starts and ends at Taga Beach and includes some rough road and technical single track portions through Tinian's historic sites. Riders will assemble at 6am leading into the 6:30am start. Bikers can enter the following divisions: men's and women's open, 25-and-under, 26-35, 36-45, and 46-and-above class. There is also a team category, which is divided into two divisions: the 2-person and 4-person races.

So far, 40 riders from Tinian, Saipan, and Guam have already signed up and organizers are ex-

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3 athletes named October's best

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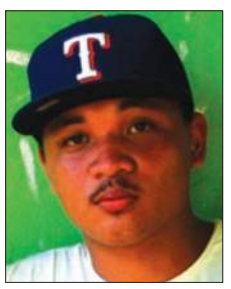
McCullough-Stearns

Rastguiy


Dela Cruz

ATHLETES of the MONTH Two volleyball players and one slugger made it to NMASA's October honors list.

Saipan International School's volleyball team member Clay McCullough-Stearns and Whispering Palms' Negahr Rastguiy were named NMASA Student Athletes of the Month, while the Rockies' Ricardo Dela Cruz claimed the Male Athlete of the Month plum for their impressive performance in their respective competitions.

McCullough-Stearns led his second-seeded SIS Blue to an upset win over the then undefeated Grace Christian Academy in the exciting finale of the varsity division of the 2012-2013 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League. His presence at the net proved to be the too much for the Eagles, as the SIS team captain also outshone GCA's key player James Libut and won the MVP honors.

McCullough-Stearns also played in the Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association's 2nd Kids Training Beach Volleyball Tournament at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and helped Team Hurley win the U18 division title. He teamed up with Chris Cepeda, Tommy Choi, and Kristle Ogbac in downing Flash in the finals.

Rastguiy competed in the same beach volleyball tournament and suited up for Go Pro, which eventually took the U13 division crown. Rastguiy and her teammates Maile Aldrich, Steven Lee, Colin Ramsey, and Troy Young prevailed over Living Like Larry in the title match.

A few weeks before their triumph in the NMIVA-sanctioned tournament, Rastguiy anchored Whispering Palms to the

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